THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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U.K. UNIV GETS UGC NOD TO OPEN ITS GLOBAL CAMPUS IN BENGALURU

University of Birbek in London on Tuesday received a Letter of Intent from the UGC to establish its global campus in Bengaluru, according to officials

GET U.K. DEGREE AT 60% LOWER COST

With the establishment of its Bengaluru campus, Birkbeck will offer Indian students access to globally recognised University of London degrees at 60 per cent lower cost, while maintaining the same academic standards. This initiative directly supports India's goal of increasing its Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education to 50 per cent by 2030, an official said

FLEXIBLE, RESEARCH-LED EDUCATION MODEL

- Founded in 1823, Birkbeck, University of London is globally recognised for its flexible, career-focused, research-led education model
- "The handing over of the Letter of Intent marks a gateway to global learning for Indians. It reflects the confidence that international institutions have in India's higher education," said a top official

2030

IS THE TARGET INDIA HAS SET TO BECOME A HUB FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Don dials Modi. Big deals soon, indicates Gor

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

Donald Trump

EMPHASISING the strategic importance of energy security and global trade routes, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump held a phone conversation for 40 minutes on Tuesday focussing on the escalating situation in West Asia and the imperative of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open and secure. The call came amid rising global concern over disruptions to maritime energy flows.

This was the first call between the two leaders since the US-Iran ceasefire last week, and their third this year. "Received a call from my friend President Donald Trump. We reviewed... progress achieved in our bilateral cooperation in various sectors. We are committed to further strengthening our Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership in all areas. We also discussed... West Asia and stressed the importance of keeping the Strait open and secure," Modi said.

The Strait remains a critical maritime chokepoint, carrying a significant share of global crude shipments. US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor described the exchange as "a very positive and productive call", signalling fresh momentum in bilateral ties. He also indicated that US sees India as a possible stakeholder in broader diplomatic efforts, adding "it is up to India to join the peace process." The US "welcomes all parties", he said.

Gor also pointed to the possibility of upcoming announcements in economic and energy sectors, saying that "big-ticket deals" between India and the US could be finalised in the coming weeks. He said, "We do have some big-ticket items that will be announced over the next few days or the next few weeks... something very interesting and exciting." According to him, energy cooperation is expected to be a major component of the emerging agreements. He also said that US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's upcoming visit to India next month is expected to further consolidate bilateral momentum.

He stressed that reopening secure maritime passage as a priority for US.

DAY 46 | WAR WATCH

US-IRAN TALKS SOON

US President Donald Trump says Iran talks could resume "over the next two days", after the first round in Pakistan last weekend ended without a deal

Crude slipped below $100 a barrel

Israel briefed India on the West Asia situation in a phone call between Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar and S Jaishankar, EAM on Tuesday

IMF reduced its 2026 growth forecast for West Asia, saying Iran, Iraq and Qatar will be hit hard

At least four Iran-linked ships — including two that visited Iranian ports — crossed the Strait Tuesday following the start of a US blockade

For 33% women's quota, 307 LS seats to be added, cap set at 850

Three bills to figure in special session of Parliament, Oppn meet today to chalk out strategy

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

DELIMITATION AS PER LATEST CENSUS

Govt to move delimitation bill 2026, to replace Delimitation Act, 2002

REPRESENTATIONAL PHOTO

PROPOSES A DELIMITATION COMMISSION CHAIRED BY A CURRENT OR EX-SC JUDGE

Delimitation Commission will readjust Lok Sabha and assembly seats and redraw constituencies on the basis of the latest Census figures

Existing allocation of seats is based on 1971 Census; present division of territorial constituencies done on 2001 Census data

SETTING the ball rolling for the implementation of one-third reservation of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies, the Centre on Tuesday proposed a significant increase in the Lok Sabha seats from the existing 543 to 850, after a delimitation exercise based on the 2011 Census.

According to three draft pieces of legislation circulated among Members of Parliament, 815 of the proposed seats in the delimitation exercise will represent states, while 35 will be allocated to Union Territories.

It was also proposed that the one-third quota for women should be implemented after a delimitation following the "latest published census".

Another key provision of the bill says that the seats reserved for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies "shall be allotted by rotation" across constituencies.

The three bills that will be taken up in the three-day sitting of Parliament on April 16 are the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026, the Delimitation Bill, 2026, and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

The draft bill seeks to amend Article 81, which governs the strength of the Lok Sabha. The proposed amendment says the Lok Sabha will have a maximum of 815 members to be chosen from the states. Also, not more than 35 members are to be chosen from the Union Territories in such manner as the Parliament may by law provide.

The current strength of the Lok Sabha, which is 543, is based on the 1971 Census. After that, the delimitation exercise has not been done as the 42nd amendment to the Constitution mandated a freeze in delimitation for 25 years until 2001, which was extended by another 25 years till 2026.

The draft bill also seeks to amend Article 82, removing the constitutional requirement that delimitation must follow the 2026 Census.

While it was widely speculated that the government may propose a 50 per cent increase in seats for all states, the bills do not have a mention of such proportional distribution.

"The Constitution Amendment Bill seeks to revise the constitutional framework relating to delimitation, allocation of seats and the meaning of "population", by providing that readjustment of constituencies and allocation of seats shall be undertaken by the Delimitation Commission based on such census as Parliament may by law determine," it said.

Responding to the proposed bill, the Congress said that when the intent behind a bill is "mischievous" and its content "devious", the extent of damage to parliamentary democracy is enormous.

CPI(M) MP John Brittas said that when concerns were raised about the declining representation of the South, the PM and others claimed there would be a proportional increase in seats for all states equally. "However, the draft bills offer no such guarantee. If delimitation is carried out based on the 2011 Census instead of 1971, seats in the North will surge dramatically, while the representation of South will shrink or stagnate," he said.

The Opposition parties will hold a meeting on Wednesday to chalk out strategies ahead of the session.

BYPOLL FALLOUT

Siddu sacks his political secy Naseer Ahmed

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah has sacked MLC **Naseer Ahmed** as his political secretary. The CM's hands were forced by the party high command in the aftermath of the Davanagere South byelection, in which the Muslim community was apparently upset with the choice of the Congress candidate.

The first victim was Abdul Jabbar who had to step down as president of KPCC Minority Cell. Next in line could be Minister for Housing, Zameer Ahmed Khan.

Siddaramaiah had asked Naseer Ahmed to resign but the latter resisted, and wanted to be a 'victim' to gain sympathies of the Muslim constituency as the one who had pushed for the community's cause to get a candidate of their choice, according to sources. "The CM has taken a decision on Naseer after getting information from various sources on his own and in the interest of the party," Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said on Tuesday. P4

Nitish Kumar greets Samrat Choudhary during NDA legislature party meet in Patna on Tuesday | PTI

Curtains down on Nitish era, Samrat set to take oath as BJP's 1st CM in Bihar

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

BIHAR Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, 57, is set to take oath as chief minister on Wednesday, marking the end of the Nitish Kumar era and ushering in the first BJP chief minister in the state.

Earlier in the day, Samrat was unanimously elected as the leader of BJP legislature party. Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan chaired the meeting. Later, Samrat was elected leader of the NDA legislature party unopposed. Outgoing chief minister Nitish Kumar announced Samrat's name as the leader. Nitish, who served as Bihar's CM for over two decades, held his last state cabinet meeting in the morning before submitting his resignation letter to the governor. Nitish became a Rajya Sabha MP last week.

After being elected the leader of the NDA legislative party, Samrat met Governor Syed Ata Hasnain, who invited him to form the new government.

According to official sources, the swearing-in ceremony of the new government will be held at Lok Bhavan at 10.55 am on Wednesday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union home minister Amit Shah and other senior leaders are likely to participate in the swearing-in ceremony. P8

No 'resemblance': Man throws son into Krishna

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayapura

VIJAYAPURA Rural Police have arrested a man for throwing his six-year-old son into the Krishna river allegedly over taunts by villagers, saying that the child did not resemble him. Superintendent of Police Laxman Nimbargi said the man has confessed to his crime.

The victim has been identified as Siddharth, and his father as Mallikarjun Arakeri, a resident of Nagathan village in Vijayapura district.

Mallikarjun admitted that on March 16, he took Siddharth out on the pretext of getting him admission in a school. Instead, he took the boy to Vadoli in Karad district of Maharashtra and threw him into the Krishna river. He lied to his family that the child had been admitted to a hostel near Sindagi.

Suspicion arose when Siddharth's mother Bhagyashree insisted that he bring the boy home for his birthday on April 1. Mallikarjun allegedly fled the house when the family questioned him about the child's whereabouts.

During the probe, police linked the case to a notice issued by Masur police station in Karad, regarding the body of an unidentified boy found in the river. The body was identified as that of Siddharth.

Sugar in your beer? You may not know

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

DO you know your beer? You may soon not know what makes the fizzy beverage so good. The labelling on beer cans and bottles manufactured and meant for exclusive sale in Karnataka, which give details, including percentage of ingredients used in the popular alcoholic beverage, may soon go.

For 'ease of doing business' and 'simplifying procedures', the State government on April 10 issued a draft notification to amend the Karnataka Excise (Bottling of Liquor) Rules, 1967, under Section 71 of the Karnataka Excise Act, 1965 (Karnataka Act 21, 1966).

Objections, if any, should be filed within 10 days of issue of the notification to the Additional Chief, Finance. The move to amend the bottling of liquor rules proposes to drop Rule 2 of the Karnataka Excise (Brewery) Rules, 1967.

"In clause (f), the 'Note' and entries relating thereto shall be omitted," the draft notification states. This section, along with other things, is on liquor prepared from malt or grain, with sugar addiction capped at 25 per cent by weight (of malt), including ale, porter and stout.

According to informed sources, more than a year ago, the Excise department had directed brewers that "sugar, if used as raw material while brewing beer, should not cross 25 per cent of the total weight of malt, and should be declared along with other ingredients on the label considering health of beer consumers, many of who are also young".

CONTINUED ON: P5

Sugar, if used as raw material while brewing beer, should not cross 25 per cent of the total weight of malt, and had to be declared along with other ingredients on the label

—A source in excise department

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Greater Bengaluru Authority
JANASEVAKA
Greater Bengaluru Authority
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Hon'ble Chief Minister
Govt. of Karnataka
Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
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Property Tax SAS App. No.
Property Sale/Regd. Deed No. (Fetched electronically from KAVERI)
BESCOM Application No. (Optional for vacant Plots)
Property Photo
*Rs. 125/- plus online Rs. 45+115=Rs. 160/- for eKhata at Home Visit (Janasevaka)
Chief Commissioner
Greater Bengaluru Authority
eKhata Citizen Helpline: 94806 83695

ALMANAC TODAY

• **Wednesday:** 15.04.2026 • **Year:** Parabhava • **Ayana:** Uttharayana • **Ritu:** Vasantha • **Masa:** Chaitra • **Paksha:** Krishna • **Tithi:** Thrayodasi 8.11 pm • **Nakshatra:** Purvabhadra 1.07 pm • Moon in Meena Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm • **Gulikakala:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am

WEATHER

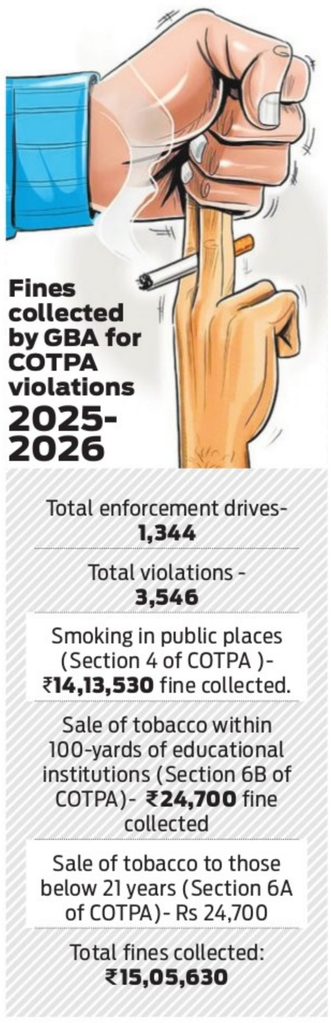
MIN 22°C | MAX 36°C

FORECAST Mostly Sunny

Sunrise 06.07 am · Sunset 06.32 pm · Moonrise 04.15 am · Moonset 04.36 pm

GBA gets rich, ₹15L up in smoke for COTPA violators

AKNISREE KARTHIK @ Bengaluru


Fines collected by GBA for COTPA violations
2025-2026
Total enforcement drives- 1,344
Total violations - 3,546
Smoking in public places (Section 4 of COTPA)- ₹14,13,530 fine collected.
Sale of tobacco within 100-yards of educational institutions (Section 6B of COTPA)- ₹24,700 fine collected
Sale of tobacco to those below 21 years (Section 6A of COTPA)- Rs 24,700
Total fines collected: ₹15,05,630

FROM April 1 2025, till March 31 this year, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has collected over Rs 15 lakh in the form of fines for violations under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) like smoking in public places and the sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of school premises.

While GBA pats itself on the back with the enforcement drives and claims that the fines collected have been increasing, citizens lament that the COTPA violations, especially smoking in public places continue.

The District Tobacco Control Cell at GBA has carried out 1,344 enforcement drives and found 3,546 violations. Topping the list is the Section 4 violation, which prohibits smoking in public places, with 3,402 violations and a fine of Rs 14,13,530. The Cell collected Rs 67,400 for selling tobacco products, including cigarettes, bidis, gutka and chewing tobacco within 100 yards of educational institutions. Also, Rs 24,700 was collected for the violation of Section 6 A which prohibits the sale of tobacco products to those below 21 years of age.

"We hardly see any COTPA enforcement in our area. People smoke cigarettes and bidis like there is no tomorrow and we have to bear with it. Smokers who are not bothered about their health are ruining the health of others through second-hand smoking", said Venkatesh M, a resident of Okalipuram.

Citizens across the city complained that they have attempted multiple times to stop the smokers from smoking near their homes, offices and public places but majority had bad experience. They said that they were abused, got caught in verbal duel and quarrels and they do not wish to confront them. The citizens urged that the government, especially the GBA's tobacco cell and the police department deal with public smoking with an iron fist and double up fines on repeat offenders.

Chief Health Officer of GBA, Dr Sirajuddin Madani told TNIE that they are have enforcement drives regularly with special focus on catching people who smoke in public places and those selling tobacco products within 100 yards of school premises.

When questioned about the fact that despite the drives, public smoking continues, Dr Madani said that they would be intensifying the drives.

MOVE TO ASHRAYA

12 yrs on, 1,110 SC/ST beneficiaries wait for sites

AKNISREE KARTHIK @ Bengaluru

Minister Satish Jarkiholi pays floral tribute to statue of BR Ambedkar on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti | EXPRESS

MEMBERS of the SC/ST community under Bahujan Vimochana Chaluvali are lashing out at the government for the over 12-year delay in allotment of sites, despite Rs 42 crore being allocated from the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) consolidated fund -- Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub Plan (SCP/TSP) -- for basic infrastructure at the identified land. They objected to the government's decision to place eligible beneficiaries under the 'Ashraya' scheme to get homes.

S Gangadhar, secretary, Bahujan Vimochana Chaluvali, an organisation for the welfare of SC/STs which has been fighting for the cause of 1,110 eligible beneficiaries since 2013, said pourakarmikas and 1,110 eligible SC/ST community members selected for the allotment of sites measuring 20x30 sqft in Dasanapura hobli in Bengaluru North and Kengeri hobli (Bengaluru Urban) are waiting for over a decade. Now, instead of issuing allotment letters, the communities are being told they will be accommodated under the 'Ashraya' scheme.

Chaluvali members said Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has been misguided by officials to accommodate beneficiaries under the 'Ashraya' scheme, for which local MLAs will call the shots in deciding the beneficiaries.

"There is a High Court ruling that eligible beneficiaries belonging to SC/ST will have to be given shelter under the SCP/TSP. Accordingly, if these beneficiaries are now clubbed with the Ashraya scheme, they will lose out as local MLAs will be heading the committee and will first try to accommodate voters and people from their assembly segment," stressed Gangadhar.

He added that the decision to club beneficiaries came recently from the DCM. Officials had drawn up the plan, and the DCM was briefed. "We got over 20 acres allotted after a long struggle, but the civic body and revenue department have not shown interest in forming the layout and issuing allotment letters," stated Gangadhar.

Housing initiative for SC/ST communities launched on occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti

BELAGAVI: Announcing a major initiative aimed at improving housing access for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi said the Karnataka launched the "Buddha-Basava-Ambedkar Layout Allotment" scheme to distribute residential sites in fully developed layouts created on a private-model basis. Speaking after paying floral tributes to the statue of BR Ambedkar at Ambedkar Garden in Belagavi on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti on Tuesday, Jarkiholi said the initiative would ensure that beneficiaries receive sites equipped with essential infrastructure. The project will be implemented using about Rs 20 crore from SCP/TSP funds. **ENS**

NEW BEGINNINGS

Sikh attend special prayers at Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurudwara at Ulsoor on the occasion of Baisakhi (Sikh new year) in Bengaluru on Tuesday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Yaduveer seeks extension of Mumbai-B'luru VB to Mysuru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

MYSORE-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Wadiyar, in a letter to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, urged that the recently approved Bengaluru-Mumbai Vande Bharat sleeper train service be extended to Mysuru, citing strong passenger demand and regional connectivity benefits. In his letter, he expressed gratitude for the Centre's efforts to enhance railway infrastructure and passenger convenience across the country.

He termed the introduction of the Bengaluru-Mumbai Vande Bharat sleeper service a "welcome initiative". Wadiyar highlighted that extending the train to Mysuru would further maximise its utility. Mysuru is a prominent cultural, tourist and economic hub that attracts large numbers of domestic and international visitors throughout the year. he said, and pointed to substantial passenger movement between Mysuru, Bengaluru and Mumbai.

"The extension would greatly benefit passengers from Mysuru and Kodagu regions, reduce travel inconvenience and strengthen regional connectivity," he stated in the letter. Wadiyar stressed that the existing railway infrastructure between Bengaluru and Mysuru is well-developed and capable of supporting the proposed extension without major constraints. Urging the Railway ministry to examine the feasibility of the proposal, he requested that the matter be considered favourably in the larger public interest.

HC sets rules for effective decree implementation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

FOR the effective implementation of decrees cancelling registered documents of immovable properties, the Karnataka High Court issued a series of guidelines to the civil courts and to sub-registrars.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum passed the order, allowing the petition filed by Antony Samy K from the city, who approached the court as the Sub Registrar of Mahadevapura refused to give effect to the decree passed in his case. In order to avoid recurrence of such situations, the court issued guidelines to the civil courts.

According to the order, in suits where a registered document is declared void, cancelled, or terminated relating to immovable properties, all civil courts and the commercial courts in the state shall direct the office to transmit a copy of the decree to the jurisdictional sub-registrar in whose office the document was registered.

The communication shall ordinarily be sent within four weeks from the date of the decree. The communication shall clearly mention the document number, the date of registration, the book and volume, and the nature of document cancelled.

Guidelines for sub-registrars

Whenever a decree cancelling a registered document is communicated by a civil court, the sub-registrar shall make the required entries in the relevant register and indexes within four weeks of receipt of such communication. Even in cases where no formal communication is received from the court, if a party produces a certified copy of the judgment and decree declaring the registered instrument is cancelled or void, the sub-registrar shall not refuse to act upon the decree. In such cases, the sub-registrar shall verify the authenticity of the certified copy, and thereafter record the cancellation in the relevant registers and indexes in accordance with Rule 123, Rules, 1965.

The registering authority shall not insist upon separate orders of the High Court or any other authority once a competent civil court has declared the document to be void or cancelled.

EXPRESS READ

Vani Vilas Hospital gets dialysis unit

BENGALURU: A dialysis unit was set up at Vani Vilas Hospital in Bengaluru by the Aahwahan Foundation, in partnership with Aptive Components India Pvt Ltd, to provide high-quality, affordable and accessible renal care to underprivileged patients, particularly those from economically weaker sections. It also aims to minimise delays and risk in patient transfers. **ENS**

Judge denies bail to babus, raps GBA on graft

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

GREATER Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will lose the importance of its existence and necessity for the people if it fails to understand their sufferings, or keeps a tab on officials who indulge in corruption, said the Special Court for Lokayukta cases, rejecting bail applications of revenue inspector Venkatesh C and revenue collector Srinivas N.

Passing the order, Judge KM Radhakrishna said, "The recovery of Rs 3lakh tainted money from the possession of the accused, that too for the simple work of registering a khata, is evident to understand the deep-rooted corruption in the Greater Bengaluru Authority. Officials appear to know no bounds in corrupt activities. They fail to understand the plight and sufferings of people who approach them with the great hope of getting their work done. They have created the inevitability for the public to pay a bribe."

> **The recovery of ₹3lakh tainted money from possession of the accused, that too for the simple work of registering a khata, is evident to understand the deep-rooted corruption in the Greater Bengaluru Authority**
>
> —KM Radhakrishna, Judge

The accused officials, working in Ward 6, Thanisandra, in Byatarayanapura sub-division in Bengaluru North City Corporation, were caught red-handed, accepting Rs 3lakh as bribe from the complainant for khata transfer. The complainant, Nyamathulla Khan, a resident of RK Hegde Nagar in the city, filed an online application against the accused for changing the khata of the building he purchased in Thanisandra, after paying the prescribed fee, in January.

Both the accused demanded Rs 3.50 lakh as bribe to do an official favour. Later, they reduced it to Rs 3 lakh. Unable to pay it, the complainant approached the Lokayukta police, who laid a trap and arrested them on April 2, after Srinivas collected the bribe on behalf of Venkatesh.

The accused denied the allegations against them. However, the public prosecutor opposed their bail applications by placing materials in support of his arguments. The judge noted that the conversational transcriptions reproduced in the trap and pre-trap panchanamas, recovery of Rs 3lakh from the accused and other related documents, prima facie disclose the involvement of both the accused in committing the alleged offences. Therefore, this is not a fit case to grant bail at this stage, he observed.

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

15th April : Quadruple Conjunctions On a day with four lunar conjunctions to Aries planets (Mercury, Neptune, Mars and Saturn), there's much burning at once: desire, curiosity, ambition, imagination, drive and perhaps even some of the more shadowy experiences like shame, anger or envy. Embrace the messy fuel of all of it. This level of energy abundance is rare, and all can be channeled for good.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You feel the wind in your hair as you glide to your next evolution, the one in which you gain what you've been wanting. At the same time, you're letting go of what you're ready to trade for the upgrade.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
It can be very frustrating to see the result you're going for in your mind and know that you're far from it. Can you just focus on the next step up? One more check on the to-do list, one more mile, one more pound lost or gained or lifted -- you're doing great.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
As you work that smile, you generate warmth and a sense of belonging everywhere you go. And though this lifts loved ones and strangers alike, most of all, it lifts you. You just feel better because your smile tells the rest of you that you should.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
Ancient humans were excellent listeners. They listened to nature to escape weather, to find food and to keep from becoming food. Today, you'll listen very well to find opportunity and steer away from trouble.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
They say that the only difference between a comedy and a tragedy is the way the story ends. Of course, this isn't true. A comedy is fun and funny all along, and a tragedy gives you beautiful things to watch and cry over. Today, you're in a position to choose your genre.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
Some interactions take years to fully process. They seem to mean one thing, then years later you look back and see something else. Time and memory have a way of showing you truths or stripping away falsehoods.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
One day, you'll look back at this and laugh. Even so, that's no reason to endure the discomfort any longer than necessary. The future will bring another perspective, but only because you assert yourself in the present.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
A polite smile here, a kind laugh, a supportive word -- it's all part of the social facade that has relationships running smoothly. The mask is your own design, allowing you to hide or show what helps the situation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
It is said that a drowning man isn't picky about who throws him a rope. You're not desperate like that, but you could still use an assist. But if you accept some form of common decency, this should not come with future obligation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
Even as you stand in what you've built, you still remember when you had far less and knew very well the aching experience of need. This feeds the compassion you have for someone currently in need.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
You contain multitudes. Is the person you're being in a relationship intrinsic to who you are? Or are certain behaviors showing up just because of this particular dynamic? Take yourself out of it and see.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
Expressing yourself will come easily today, not because you're in a supportive environment, lifted by receptive people who get you. Not because you've practiced your talent and feel confident -- no. Because you've been brave time and again. Courage is a muscle.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle ⬇

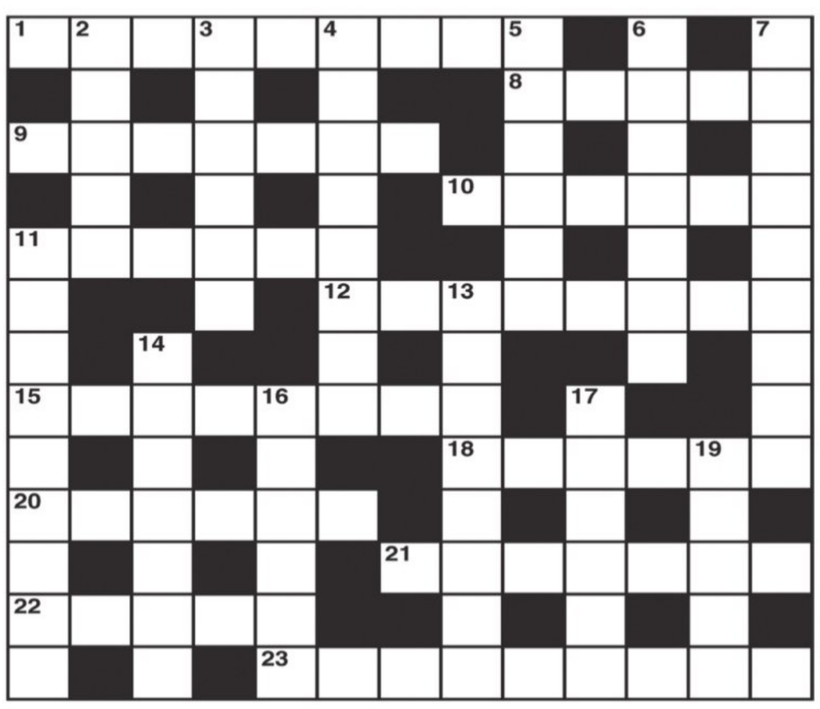
	9				4		1	2
7				9			4	
	6		1	3				
5		9	4			2		
		2			5	7		1
				4	1		9	
	4			6				7
9	1		7				2	

1	2	3	5	9	7	6	8	4
8	7	4	2	6	1	5	3	9
5	9	6	3	8	4	1	7	2
4	5	9	6	7	8	2	1	3
3	1	2	4	5	9	7	6	8
7	6	8	1	2	3	4	9	5
2	4	7	8	3	6	9	5	1
9	8	1	7	4	5	3	2	6
6	3	5	9	1	2	8	4	7

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Contract debts without interest (9)
8 Potentially earn a place in the sporting world (5)
9 Sound reasonable (7)
10 Maintain there's some body in the beer (6)
11 Sort of butter made from vegetable and fruit (6)
12 I am conclusively shown to be better (8)
15 I plan too casually but it's a matter of choice (8)
18 Cathy's rocking the boats (6)
20 Stays will alter a waist (6)
21 Red wines turn scarlet (7)
22 Bones placed in a circle (5)
23 Tasty fruit centre in a new assortment (9)

DOWN

2 Ring in the nose as a halter (5)
3 Workers' associations in unison perhaps (6)
4 Idleness in battle (8)
5 Some canvas or tar (6)
6 Book expresses some limitation (7)
7 New Year gifts whose days are numbered (9)
11 Play recorded music to make a show (3,2,4)
13 Versatile languages master? (8)
14 Leaves high and dry on the beaches (7)
16 Get on a bit maybe (6)
17 He puts up the points or puts them down (6)
19 A small bird and an enormous one (5)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Wedding, 4 Plain, 7 Ohms, 8 Foregone, 10 Pinpointed, 12 Breech, 13 Issued, 15 Out of order, 18 Fallible, 19 Dolt, 20 Demon, 21 Elapsed.

Down: 1 Whoop, 2 Dominoes, 3 Ground, 4 Pretension, 5 Agog, 6 Needled, 9 Conclusion, 11 Outdoors, 12 Briefed, 14 Collie, 16 Rated, 17 Plum.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

RPEIG

RKUYM

LEOJST

LTETKET

Whoa! That sounds great! Is that in A minor?
That intro is on fire!
It sounds like a Doors song for sure.
WHEN THE DOORS PERFORMED "LIGHT MY FIRE," RAY MANZAREK PLAYED A ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CHEEK TEMPT JAGUAR LESSON
Answer: Even though her twin sister could be irritating, she loved her — JUST THE SAME

A 21-year-old woman and her newborn baby died during childbirth at the District Hospital in Belagavi. The deceased, Iramma Nagappa Matoli, a resident of Hunshikatti village in Kittur taluka was admitted to the hospital on April 10 for delivery. She underwent a cesarean section on Sunday midnight, during which both she and the baby lost their lives

Woman kills daughter, ends life

Mother smothered 13-yr-old girl, may have been suffering from depression

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

IN a tragic incident, a 45-year-old woman allegedly smothered her daughter to death before ending her own life at their residence on Immadihalli Main Road in the Whitefield police station limits on Tuesday.

The deceased have been identified as Suvarna (45), a homemaker, and her daughter, Tarunya (13), a sixth standard student at a private school. The family resided on Immadihalli Main Road. Suvarna's husband, Chandrashekar, works in a private firm, and the couple also has a 17-year-old son.

According to the police, on Tuesday, at 11 am, the Whitefield police received information about the deaths of the woman and her daughter. Police personnel, along with the Scene of Crime Officers (SOCO), rushed to the spot. Chandrashekar had left for work on Tuesday morning. When repeated phone calls to his wife went unanswered, he alerted his brother Vinod Kumar, who upon checking the house found two bodies in the room. It is suspected that Suvarna allegedly smothered her daughter to death and later hanged herself from a ceiling fan in a room.

Tarunya and Suvarna

HELPLINE

If you are having suicidal thoughts, or are worried about a friend or need emotional support, someone is always there to listen. Call Sneha Foundation - 04424640050, Tele Manas - 14416 (available 24x7) or iCall, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences' helpline - 02225521111, which is available Monday to Saturday from 8 am to 10 pm.

The bodies have been sent for post-mortem. The exact reason for the incident is yet to be ascertained, though it is suspected that Suvarna may have been suffering from depression, driving her to take the extreme step. Two cases have been registered at the Whitefield police station in connection with the deaths.

Chandrashekar has filed a complaint against his wife for allegedly killing their daughter, while Suvarna's brother, Manjunath, has filed a separate complaint regarding a suspicious death.

Man murdered near home, one arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A 41-year-old manager of an online quick-commerce application was killed by a man over a suspected personal issue at his house in Dabbaguntahalli village in the outskirts of Bengaluru on Monday night. The Hoskote police have detained a man in connection with the murder. The deceased has been identified as Shiva Shankar, a resident of Dabbaguntahalli village, who worked as a manager at an online quick-commerce application.

The police said that around 9pm on Monday, as Shankar was speaking on the phone near his house, the accused, Anil Kumar, allegedly attacked him with a sharp object and fled the scene. On hearing his screams, family members rushed out and took him to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. A murder case has been registered, and Anil has been taken into custody. The exact motive for the murder is yet to be ascertained, police said. Further investigation is underway.

Man held for swapping fake notes at RBI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

The Halasuru Gate police have arrested a 52-year-old man for allegedly attempting to exchange counterfeit Rs 2,000 currency notes at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) office on Nrupathunga Road.

The police said that on April 9, the accused S V Ramesh, a resident of Nagashettihalli, visited the RBI office and submitted 375 notes of Rs 2,000 denomination, requesting that the Rs 7.5 lakh be credited to his bank account in exchange. When RBI officials examined the notes, they discovered that the notes were fake. RBI Assistant General Manager Bheem Choudhary filed a case against Ramesh, leading to his arrest. A police officer said that the incident has raised suspicions of a larger racket, "We are investigating who supplied the fake notes to the accused and where they were manufactured".

RBI withdrew Rs 2,000 denomination notes from circulation in 2023. However, the public is still allowed to deposit or exchange these notes at the RBI office. An individual can exchange up to Rs 20,000 worth of Rs 2,000 notes at a time.

TRIBUTE TO REFORMER

Artistes at a celebration to mark the 135th birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar in front of Vidhna Soudha in Bengaluru on Tuesday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Family kills married woman for living with lover, 3 arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

A grisly crime came to light in Yamakanmardi, near Belagavi, after police arrested three members of a young woman's family for allegedly murdering her and burning the body to destroy evidence.

The victim, Satyavva Santosh Halavi (24), a resident of Hanabaratti village in Raibag taluk, was allegedly forcibly poisoned and killed by her own family members for continuing her relationship with her lover after marriage. Police said Satyavva was in a relationship with Krishna Sahadev Patil, who belongs to a different caste. Despite her marriage four years ago to Santosh Halavi of Hanabaratti village, their relationship continued. On February 17, she allegedly left her husband and began living with Patil in Belavadi. Her family subsequently filed missing complaints in Yamakanmardi and Raibag police stations.

One of the three arrested accused | EXPRESS

After tracing Satyavva, her family members reportedly brought her back home and tried to counsel her, citing caste differences. However, she insisted on returning to her lover.

On March 21, while in Arag village, she again expressed her intention to go back to Patil. Enraged, the accused allegedly forced her to consume poison and killed her. They cremated her the same night at a cremation ground in Arag village to destroy evidence.

Based on a complaint filed by Krishna Patil, Yamakanmardi police launched an investigation and arrested her uncle, Prakash Bhimappa Halavar (46), brother Shanoor Sadashiv Halavar (35), and brother-in-law Kallappa Mayappa Halavi (40). All three were remanded in judicial custody.

GP member shot dead in Vijayapura

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayapura

UNIDENTIFIED assailants rammed a truck into the car of a Gram Panchayat (GP) member, fired six rounds at him and later stoned him to death near Aliabad on the outskirts of Vijayapura on Tuesday.

The deceased has been identified as Raju Kare (48), a resident of Tangaruna Doddi village. The incident has triggered tension in the area.

The police suspect personal rivalry behind murder, but said only a detailed investigation could reveal the exact motive. Vijayapura Rural Police have launched an investigation to trace the accused.

Hippo 'Hamsini' that killed vet in March dies at Shivamogga zoo

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

A 12-year-old female hippopotamus, Hamsini, died at the Tiger and Lion Safari in Tyavarekoppa on Tuesday, zoo authorities said. It was the same hippo that attacked and killed Sameeksha Reddy, a 27-year-old veterinarian apprentice on March 19.

Shivamogga Zoo director Amarakshar V M said that Hamsini died at 3.08 pm. The hippo was suspected to be pregnant with signs including foetal movement, abdominal swelling and noticeable behavioural changes. Although the eight-month gestation period had reportedly been completed by mid-March, no evidence of delivery emerged.

In the days leading up to its death, the animal reportedly ate less and appeared markedly lethargic. On April 10, a team of wildlife veterinarians from the Karnataka Zoo Authority, Mysuru, carried out a detailed medical examination. Blood and other fluid samples were tested, and the results indicated a severe uterine infection. Veterinarians said the condition may have been triggered by intrauterine foetal death. They added that the infection had impaired the functioning of vital organs, and described the prognosis as guarded to poor.

Thereafter, wildlife veterinarians, along with a consulting obstetrician-gynaecologist veterinarian, continued treatment. However, the animal died on Tuesday.

On March 19, Hamsini attacked Sameeksha Reddy after she entered the enclosure to record the animal's body temperature.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The notice is hereby given to public that our client Tousiff Ahmed and Sadiq Ahmed are intending to purchase and mortgage the schedule property with Piramal Finance Limited.

If any person or persons or financial institution or Bank has any claim over the schedule property or any person or persons claim any right, title or interest, over the schedule property, the same may be lodged with the undersigned within seven days from today, along with relevant documents, failing which it will be presumed that the schedule property is free from any such claim and any claim received thereafter will not bind my client and would not be considered by my client.

SCHEDULE :

All that piece and parcel of Immovable property bearing Site No. 158, V. P. No. 1161A, situated at Gramathana, Kavalbyrasandra Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru BBMP, Ward no. 48, measuring 15 x 40 ft, and bounded as follow:, East by:P.Nagaraj's Property, West by:Mohammed Ali's Property, North by:Road, South by:Private Property.

V.L. Associates
Advocates
No.56, Out house, 19th Main Road, 2nd Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010.
Ph: 9481900851/9743323668.
Place: Bangalore Date: 14.04.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of our client **Mr. Lalit Kumar** R/at No.10/6 7th A Cross Near Mariamma Temple Magadi Road K P Agrahara Bengaluru 560023 to bring to the notice of the general public that the original Sale deed dated 30.01.2006, Doc.No.NMG-1-05290-2005-06, CD No.NMGD46, in respect of the Schedule Property is lost/ misplaced between the date from 31.03.2026 to 13.04.2026 regarding this police complaint is given vide lost Report No.2153998/2026

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim or holding the afore mentioned document, they shall return the same or contact the undersigned in writing within **07 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of **Sy. No. 122** Site formed in the converted Land having **Site No. 76,** having Khaneshumari No. 316/76, situated at **MYLANAHALLI Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District,** measuring East to West: **40 Feet,** and North to South: **30 Feet,** Total area **1200 Sq. Feet** and with in the limits of Basavanahalli Grama Panchayat bounded as follows:

East by : 40 Feet Road. West by : Private Property. North by: Site No. 75. South by: Site No. 77.

(VINOD.M)
M/s. PRAGYA LEGAL, Advocates,
No. 25/1, Anandnivas, 3rd cross,
6th Main, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-09.
Mobile: 8861088313
Email: mvinod.9161@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that the original Title Deed dated 1972 in respect of the below mentioned property is lost/misplaced and the same is not traceable despite diligent search. Subsequently, the said property has been validly conveyed under a registered Gift Deed dated 07-04-2026, which is presently in force and possession has been delivered accordingly. The property is situated at Pallerayanahalli Village, within the limits of Yadawani Grama Panchayathi, Amruthur Hobli, Kunigal Taluk, Tumakuru District, bearing Property No. 21 and Property ID No. 152500402600400021, measuring East to West 10.668 meters and North to South 12.192 meters, total extent 130.064256 sq. meters, along with a building thereon and bounded on East by Ramaiah's property, West by Road, North by Road and South by Nanjamma's property. Therefore, any person having any right, title, interest or claim over the said property by virtue of the said Title Deed or otherwise is hereby called upon to submit their objections, if any, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that no such claims exist and the said Gift Deed shall be treated as valid, absolute and binding on all concerned.

Sd/- **Chandrashekhara M,** Advocate
Thotadaguddadhalli, Nagasandra Post,
Bangalore - 560073.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients have negotiated to purchase the Property bearing Muncipal No. 1266/1247/4/22/54/4, E-PID NO. 4335596420, measuring 8712 sq. feet, situated at Channasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, comes within the limits of BBMP Rajarajeshwari Nagar Ward No.160, more fully described in the schedule herein, from **(1) Mr.ASHOK NAKRANI** S/o Mr.K.K.Patel @ Kantilal Patel and **(2) Mr.K.K.PATEL** S/o Mr.Khetshi Bhai M Patel.

Any person/s or Authority asserting any rights, title, interest or claim in the schedule property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim/s against the Schedule property or the documents thereof against the owner or objection to such Sale in favour of my clients, should write to the undersigned within 7 days with all documentary proof failing which my client shall proceed on the basis that there is no claim/s that whatsoever nature with regard to the schedule property.

SCHEDULE

All the piece and parcel of the Property bearing Muncipal No.1266/1247/4/22/54/4, E-PID NO.4335596420, portion of converted land bearing Sy.No.22, Re Sy.No.54, measuring 8712 Sq. Feet, equallent to 0.8 Guntas, situated at Channasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, comes within the limits of BBMP Rajarajeshwari Nagar Ward No.160, now Bangalore West City Corporation East by: Road Leading to Mrs.Santhoshi S Poojari Garden, West by: Land Belongs to Sri.Govind Ratansi Patel Smt. Gayathri.A. Patel and Sri.Rajesh, North by: Land belongs to Sri.Amruth.P. Patel, South by: Private Property in Sy.No.22, R.Sy.No.54

Sd/- B. KESHAVA MURTHY,
KESARI LAW ASSOCIATES, ADVOCATES
Chamber at No.12, I Floor, "Ramanuja Plaza", 5th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560 003.
E-Mail: keshavaadvocate@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Schedule Property was purchased by late Mr. M. Chinnappa through Sale Deed dated 15/06/1984, registered as document No. 877/1984-85, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Bangalore North Taluk, from its erstwhile owner Mr. M. Muniyappa represented by his GPA holder Mr. Thimmaiah. However, the said GPA is misplaced and the present owner is unable to trace it. My client intends to purchase the Schedule Property.

I hereby call upon any one who may find the said GPA and / or having any claim on the Schedule Property to return the same and / or lodge your claim with me within 10 days from today. In case no objection/claim is received, it will be deemed that the Schedule Property is free from encumbrance or any claim from anybody and my client may proceed with the purchase and he is not bound to entertain any claims thereafter.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of Northern portion of old Khaneshumari Number 68/70-52, present Number 53, e-PID No. 2044110815, 8th Cross, Shivanandanagara, Moodalapalya, Near Santhosh Gym, Bengaluru - 560 072, bounded on the:-

East by : 30 feet Road 1; West by : Property of Mr. Kempanna; North by : Property No. 70 & 53; South by : Property No. 68/70-52.

measuring East to West 61 feet and North to South 15 feet, altogether measuring 915 square feet.

B.N. Tulsi Kumar, Advocate,
No. 18/1 (Old No.1020), 11th Main Road, Hampinagar, RPC Layout, Bangalore-560 104.
Mobile : 9845811922
bn.tulsikumar@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General public that my client **Miss. J.L. KIRAN BHARGAVI,** Represented by Power of Attorney holder Mr. J. Lokanath Babu Naidu intends to purchase property bearing No.65, formed in Sy.No.30 of Shivanahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Old No.208, present Municipal No.21, E Khatha No.2464569918, 1st Main Road, Shivanagar, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-10, measuring East-West:30 feet and North-South: 35 feet, in all measuring 1050 square feet together with the building consisting of Ground plus Two floors having built-up area of 900 square feet each floor with 200 Square being used for Commercial purposes with all amenities and bounded on the East By: Property No.66, West By: The property of Mr.Thimmaiah is now someone else's property, North By: Property No.82, South By: Road from Mr.B.J.Sunil Kumar, S/o.Late.B.S.Jagadesh. Any person/s asserting any kind of right, title, interest or claims of any sort towards the Sale transaction may file their objections or claims with documentary proof thereof with the undersigned **within (5) Five days** from the date of this publication, failing which my client will proceed to complete the transaction without being liable for any claims put forth thereof.

RAJAGOPALA NAIDU,
PRASHANT N RAJ, Advocates
No.4, 'Krishnaraja' 4th Floor, 50 Feet Road, Hanumanthanagar,
Bengaluru - 560 019. Date: 14/04/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Clients **Smt. MUKTHA.M.,** Wife of Kishore.R., Aged about 28 Years, and **Sri. KISHORE.R.,** Son of Ramanji.M., Aged about 33 Years, Both are residing at No. 29, Nallurhalli Road, Pattandur Agrahara, Whitefield Post, Bangalore : 560066.., Mob: 8892471395 , is desirous of purchasing shown in the Schedule from its Owner **Smt. ANITA PANIGRAHY.,** Wife of Sri. Laxmi Narayan Panigrahy., Residing at : Braja Nagar, 3rd Line, Brahmapur: 760001.

Any Person or persons having/asserting any right title or interest, claim or intending to oppose the purchase in any manner may file their written objections within Seven (07) DAYS from the date of publication of the notice hereof, with documentary proof to the undersigned at his office where after no such claims shall be entertained and our client will proceed to complete the Sale transaction of the Schedule Apartment.

SCHEDULE

Flat/ Apartment bearing No. A-004 , in the Ground Floor, **EPID No. 3561479525** measuring about 1186 Sq.Ft., super built up area, containing THREE bedrooms, together with RCC Roofing Vitrified flooring together with One Covered car parking space, including proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircase, etc., in the multistoried residential building complex known as **"TRISTAR AISHWARYA"** constructed in converted Sy.No. 92/4 formed out of Sy.No. .92/4 and 92/5. Converted for residential purpose, vide its Official Memorandum Order No.ALN(E)SR(KH)47/2009-10, Dated: 08-09-2010, issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore, Situated at Pattandura Agrahara, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Now Comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Ward No.82, Bangalore,

MAHENDRA KUMAR .M., Advocate
No.5, 1st Floor, Srirama complex, Opp to UCO Bank, Hagaduru, Immadihalli Main Road, Whitefield, Bangalore : 560066.
Date : 15.04.2026 **Mob. : 9148920250**

PUBLIC NOTICE

ADDITIONAL CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE, DADAR (CAMPED AT SEWREE) MUMBAI
IN THE COURT OF MADHAVI RAJESH DHANORKAR
JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE (FIRST CLASS),7TH COURT
Case No: Summary Cases/700817/2023

Summons to the accused person by publication

Mahindra First Choice First choice Wheels Limited (Complainant)
Vs. Naveen K (Accused)

To,
Mr. Naveen K
Address: 203, 2nd Cross Maruthi, Bangalore, Nagarbhavi, Karnataka - 72

WHEREAS a complaint under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, has been filed by Mahindra First Choice Wheels Limited (Complainant) in the case 817/SC/2023 against you regarding the dishonour of Cheque.

WHEREAS it has been proved to the satisfaction of this Court that you, Mr. Naveen K (the accused) cannot be served in ordinary way.

Therefore through this public Notice, you are hereby summoned to appear either in person or duly instructed legal pleader before this Court on 29 April, 2026 at 10:30 AM at Judicial Magistrate (First class), 7th Court, (Camped at Sewree) Mumbai, Maharashtra to answer the charge.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court on 7th March, 2026.
Seal and Sd/-
Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Dadar,
(Camped at Sewree) Mumbai
Judicial Magistrate First class, 7th Court.

SHIVAMOGGA, DAVANAGERE AND CHITRADURGA DIST CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCER'S SOCIETIES UNION LTD.,
Machenahalli, Nidige Post, Shivamogga – 577 222

IFT:No:SDCMUL/PUR/E.Proc/Tender-281E/264/2026-27 Date: 10.04.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Through GOK E-Procurement Portal only - Logon to: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Shivamogga, Davanagere and Chitradurga Dist Co-Operative Milk Producer's Societies Union Ltd., invites in two tender document system i.e. technical and commercial system from the manufactures or from interested eligible bidders for supply of following materials.

SN	Particulars	Qty	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 5 KL Capacity Bulk Milk Cooler Unit with Standard Accessories along with Hot Water System by heat recovery unit with DG set and on buy back of existing old 3 KL capacity BMC unit and old Servo Stabilizer and specified places of Shivamogga, Davanagere & Chitradurga District area.	06 Nos.	1,53,000/-

1. Tender Documents may be downloaded from the e-Procurement Portal of GOK from : 15.04.2026
2. Pre Bid Meeting : 17-04-2026 at 11.00 AM
3. Last date for uploading the filled Tender documents : on or before 22.04.2026 up to 16.00 Hours
4. Date of opening of Technical Tender : 23.04.2026 at 16.30 Hours
5. Date of opening of Financial Tender : 24.04.2026 at 16.30 Hours

The bidder may download the tender documents with the Technical Specification, terms & conditions of the tender by paying e-portal fees. The details regarding participation for this tender can be obtained by login to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
Any additional information regarding tender may be obtained from **Deputy Manager (Purchase) during office hours, e-mail id :dmpur.shimul@gmail.com contact nos: 08182-246161, Mob: 7760971951.**

Sd/- Managing Director

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

General

SBI
State Bank of India
Central Recruitment & Promotion Department
Corporate Centre, Mumbai
Phone: 022-22820427

Scan QR to Apply

Recruitment of Specialist Cadre Officers on Contract Basis

Applications are invited from eligible Indian citizens for the following post on Contract basis:

Advertisement No.: CRPD/SCO/2026-27/01 (Contractual position)

Name of Post	Vacancy	Age (As on 31.03.2026)	
		Min	Max
Group Chief Economic Advisor	1	55	62

Advertisement No.: CRPD/SCO/2026-25/04 (Contractual position)

Name of Post	Vacancy	Age (As on 31.03.2026)	
		Min	Max
Lead Business Analyst	8	30	40

For eligibility criteria (age, experience, job profile etc.), vacancy details, requisite fees, other details and for online submission of application as well as online payment of application fees log on to Bank's website **https://sbi.bank.in/web/careers/current-openings**. Refer detailed advertisement to ensure eligibility and other details before applying and remitting fees. For any query, please write to us through link **"CONTACT US" → "Post Your Query"** which is available on Bank's official website **(https://bank.sbi/web/careers/post-your-query)**

- **DATE FOR FILING ONLINE APPLICATION & PAYMENT OF FEES: FROM 13.04.2026 To 04.05.2026.**

Place: Mumbai
Date: 13.04.2026 **General Manager (RP & PM)**

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
PARADIP-754142, ODISHA (INDIA)
(An autonomous body under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India)

No:AD/RSC-I-21/16/2013(Pt.-I)/990 **Dated, the 2nd April, 2026**

Advertisement

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for engagement of 02 (Two) **General Duty Medical Officers on contractual basis** in Paradip Port Authority.

For further details, visit our website https://paradipport.gov.in/Carrer.aspx.

PPA/PR/04/2026-2027 **Sd/- Dy. Secretary,**
Dt. 07.04.2026 **Paradip Port Authority**

Mysore-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Wadiyar, in a letter to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, urged that the recently approved Bengaluru-Mumbai Vande Bharat sleeper train service be extended to Mysuru, citing strong passenger demand and regional connectivity benefits

BYPOLL AFTERMATH

I'm being made a scapegoat: Jabbar

Says he never demanded D'gere South ticket for himself, but for any leader of minorities

G SUBHASH CHANDRA
@ Davanagere

CONSIDERING the large minority community population in Davanagere South assembly constituency, minority leaders in the Congress demanded the party ticket for a leader from their community. However, now there is fear of losing elections, I am being made a scapegoat, MLC Abdul Jabbar posted on social media.

He said, "I have never demanded the ticket for myself, but for any leader of the minorities, and my words can be examined.... The actions of my leaders have caused pain. Those who came to campaign for Davangere South did not meet me, but it is not a big deal. But I cannot forgive them for questioning my integrity towards the Congress party and my honesty, and for trying to tarnish my image through a press conference, he said.

"The words spoken by Rizwan Arshad and Salim Ahmed at the press conference have severely hurt me. I have resigned from my position as KPCC minority cell president because I was told that I was not qualified for that position. I have not resigned to the party. The Congress has given me everything so far, therefore, I am loyal to the party," Jabbar said, adding that he would not blame the party for these accusations.

We sought a fair chance as the community didn't had any representation, we even promised to work for the victory of ordinary party workers of the AHINDA communities. When there was a severe backlash against the candidate and community people got angry, a short visit by minister Zameer Ahmed Khan calmed them down, he said. He also praised Zameer Khan, saying he had achieved in just two hours what Rizwan Arshad and Salim Ahmed could not do in 20 days.

The words spoken by Rizwan Arshad and Salim Ahmed at the press conference have severely hurt me. I have resigned because I was told that I was not qualified for that position

Abdul Jabbar, MLC

OVER APPEASEMENT POLITICS WILL LEAD TO CONG'S DOWNFALL: ASHOKA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

LEADER of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka on Tuesday alleged that the Congress' "over appeasement politics" would lead to the party's downfall. He was referring to the Congress taking action against its minority community leaders after the recent Davanagere South bypoll.

Taking to social media platform X, Ashoka said that he had earlier warned in the Assembly that "Muslim appeasement and vote-bank politics" would damage the Congress in the long run. Referring to the 2024 incident where supporters of Congress Rajya Sabha member Naseer Hussain allegedly raised pro-Pakistan slogans inside the Vidhana Soudha, Ashoka said he had warned that excessive Muslim appeasement and the obsession would one day lead to the Congress' downfall.

On the recent developments within the Congress connected to the Davanagere South bypoll, the senior BJP leader said it now appears that what he had said in the House two years ago is coming true. "The Congress must now understand the harsh reality that Muslims will support it only as long as there is no alternative political option," he alleged

Ashoka also said that Congress leaders in Karnataka should at least now wake up and shift their focus from appeasement politics to development. "Otherwise, the fate that the Congress has faced in states like Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, and Bihar will inevitably repeat itself in Karnataka," Ashoka added.

CONGRESS' DOUBLE STANDARDS: HDK

Union Minister and former CM HD Kumaraswamy said the very community that was excessively appeased is now seeing its leaders being targeted. "This reflects the double standards of Congress. People are observing everything very closely. In a democracy, all communities should be treated equally. One should not appease one community while suppressing another. Political parties cannot rely on the permanent support of any one community," he said.

CM Siddaramaiah pays tribute to Dr BR Ambedkar on his 135th birth anniversary at Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Would not have become CM if not for Ambedkar's Constitution: Siddu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

"I was able to become the Chief Minister because of the Constitution written by Dr BR Ambedkar," said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

He was speaking at the 135th birth anniversary celebration of Bharat Ratna Dr BR Ambedkar, organised by the Social Welfare Department here at the Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday. He said that Ambedkar had clearly stated then that until the caste system exists, 'untouchability' will continue to exist and that 'casteism' will exist as long as there is social and economic inequality.

The CM said that Ambedkar, throughout his life, fought for the oppressed, the Scheduled Castes, the exploited ones and the underprivileged people. Ambedkar was not just a leader of Dalits, but also fought on behalf of all those who have been deprived of opportunities and are underprivileged.

Through the Indian Constitution, Ambedkar made a sincere effort to provide freedom, equality and fraternity to all Indians, and that is why the country's constitution is considered the greatest in the world, he said.

He said it is painful that complete equality has not been achieved, and said that Ambedkar had stated that the country's independence would not be successful if social and economic inequality were not eliminated.

Siddaramaiah said that Ambedkar put in efforts to reform Hinduism and abandoned it when his efforts failed. "He rejected Manuvada, which led to inequality," he said.

He said that Ambedkar was able to give such a constitution only because he understood the social system. "It is impossible to build an equal society without scientific education. Government's guarantee schemes are providing social and economic strength. It is an honest effort by the government to build an equal society," the Chief Minister said.

He said that the Manuvadis were against the Constitution and alleged that they were spreading false propaganda that Ambedkar was defeated by the Congress and were opposed to his cremation in Delhi.

During the occasion, the CM lauded the students of government-run residential schools for securing 97.22% and distributed Dr BR Ambekdar awards.

Ministers HC Mahadevappa, KH Muniyappa, Legislative Council Chief Whip Salim Ahmed, MLA Rizwan Arshad, Upper House members Bhoje Gowda, Govindaraju, former MP Chandrappa, former Minister Anjaneya, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh and others were present.

POURAKARMIKAS HONOURED

The birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar was celebrated on Tuesday at the Commissioner's Office of Bengaluru North City Corporation. Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar honoured the pourakarmikas and distributed sweets in appreciation of their service.

Naseer failed to fulfill his responsibility: DKS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SHIVAKUMAR said that the party had instructed Naseer to go to Davangere South and make the rebel candidate Saqiq Pailwan withdraw his papers. "He has failed to fulfill this responsibility. I am yet to receive a report on what happened there," he maintained. When asked if disciplinary action will be taken against Zameer as well, he quipped, "I have no information about this."

The trio, identified as staunch loyalists of Siddaramaiah, has been facing charges of having indulged in anti-party activities pertaining to bypolls to Davanagere South assembly constituency as the party denied ticket to a Muslim member and instead picked Samarth Shamanuru, son of Horticulture Minister SS Mallikarjun, as its candidate.

Zameer on Tuesday met Siddaramaiah at the latter's residence and gave explanation over the issue and claimed he has not indulged in any anti-party activity.

RDPR minister Priyank Kharge, AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge's son, and social welfare Dr HC Mahadevappa were also present during the discussion which lasted for about 10 minutes.

"I don't know why Jabbar has resigned. I just found out that he has resigned. And about Nazeer, I'm not sure if he has been removed. I don't know the reason for it. The CM called everyone to his house and we are all going there now," Zameer told reporters before meeting the CM.

"It's true that there was some disenchantment in the Muslim community over the denial of the ticket. Later, everything became alright, and they have supported our party candidate and we will win by a good margin," he said.

The disciplinary action has come a few days after the polling was held on April 9 and well ahead of the results to be declared on May 4. The development is being interpreted as DK Shivakumar, apparently, striking at Siddaramaiah, and his camp, who wants to consolidate his position before the results to the bypolls and the five states are announced by carrying out the cabinet reshuffle by securing the high command's nod, according to sources.

Collecting evidence against the Siddaramaiah camp members' alleged anti-party activities, Shivakumar managed to get the AICC secretary and Karnataka in-charge, Abhishek Dutt, to file a report to the party bosses, they added. He has taken the Zameer's rival camp within the party, including the Chief Whip in the Council, Saleem Ahmed, and Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad into confidence.

Since Siddaramaiah camp members had been campaigning for the latter to continue in the CM post for the remaining two years, Shivakumar has also started targeting them, according to sources. He has warned the senior MLAs led by party Chief Whip Ashok M Pattan, also Siddaramaiah's aide, who have camped in New Delhi lobbying for cabinet berths expecting the reshuffle. "There is nothing wrong with the MLAs going to Delhi and demanding ministerial berths. Let them make their demands known but the party's discipline should be adhered to. They are all our colleagues, therefore, I have appealed to them to maintain discipline. I have advised them to be careful while responding to media queries," he warned in a subtle manner.

Will be in K'taka 2 days a week: HDK

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

UNION Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries **HD Kumaraswamy** has said that he will spend two days every week in Karnataka to strengthen the JDS and fight for people's issues. "There is a need to raise a voice for people, and I shall fight for it," Kumaraswamy, a former chief minister, told reporters at the JDS office in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

"I cannot keep silent. The Congress government is not doing good to people. When we were in power, good things happened to people. In order to achieve this, there is a need to remove Congress from power," Kumaraswamy added.

On the women's reservation bill, Kumaraswamy said if it is implemented, the country's political picture will change. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 33% reservation for women is being given. After delimitation, Karnataka will get 42 Parliamentary seats, of which 33% will be for women. We are going to encourage women workers in this regard," he said.

Further, Kumaraswamy said Karnataka is witnessing rampant unemployment.

"Karnataka Public Service Commission, which is expected to conduct transparent recruitment, is full of irregularities. The State Government has not carried out even a single recruitment exercise. In such a situation, unemployed youth must come out onto the streets and fight for their rights. This protest should not be limited to Dharwad or a single location, but should be spread across the state. I am not saying this for politics, but I feel bad to see talented youth facing distress," he said. Kumaraswamy also alleged that those responsible for wrongdoings within KPSC have not been held accountable, while attempts are being made to target individuals, which he said was not fair. He also criticised the government for failing to fulfil its assurances of filling 70,000 posts in various departments.

C'ballapur mandates equal temple access

ENS @ Bengaluru

ACTING on the directions of Chikkaballapur **MLA Pradeep Eshwar,** the Chikkaballapur taluk administration has issued a memo that all temples — both under the Muzrai department and private — must ensure free and equal access to devotees across Nandi, Kasaba and Mandikallu hoblis.

The memo dated April 13, reiterates that temples are centres of worship and that it is the divine right of every devotee to have darshan, stressing that all are equal in the eyes of God. Citing Article 15 of the Constitution, authorities said any denial of entry based on caste, religion, gender or place of birth is illegal and unconstitutional.

The move comes after multiple complaints of certain communities being denied entry to temples. The administration noted that the government has issued strict directions to address such violations and ensure inclusive access. To enforce the directive, all temples have been instructed to immediately install signboards at their entrances stating, "Open entry for all for darshan of the deity without any discrimination of caste, race, religion, or gender."

The memo also warned that any individual or temple authority obstructing entry will face disciplinary action. The measure is aimed at upholding constitutional values and ensuring social equality in places of worship across the taluk.

INTERNAL QUOTA

Fighting for small percentage differences unnecessary, says DKS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said that the BJP was misleading people about internal reservation. "In fact, it is the Congress government that has actually taken steps to bring internal reservation... the BJP never did anything in this regard," Shivakumar said.

Shivakumar, who is also KPCC president, was addressing Congress workers on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti at the KPCC office in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

Shivakumar said that the Congress had promised a 6-6-5 ratio of benefits, but the court restricted it to 15%. "Still, all oppressed communities are covered under this system. Fighting over small percentage differences is unnecessary," he said, adding that they have continued providing reservations beyond the initial 10-year limit, benefiting millions.

Further, Shivakumar said that reservation is a Congress programme and that it is aimed at ensuring dignity and self-respect. He also said that earlier, the Union Government allocated Rs 80,000 crore for the development of Scheduled Castes, while the Karnataka Congress government has alone provided Rs 29,000 crore under STP and TSP Acts. "However, the BJP continues to find fault. Congress is the only party that genuinely thinks about the marginalised communities," he said.

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar addresses party workers at KPCC office in Bengaluru on Tuesday | PIC: X

On the women reservation Bill, Shivakumar said that it is the Congress that has provided 50% reservation for women and that is implemented in the Gram Panchayat Act. "Sonia Gandhi had introduced the Women's Reservation Bill in the Rajya Sabha, enabling women to contest local elections and emerge as leaders," he said.

Shivakumar also stated that history must not be forgotten, as those who forget history cannot create it. He compared Dr BR Ambedkar to Mahatma Gandhi, noting that just as Gandhi's statues are seen across the country, Ambedkar, too, is honoured in divine form with statues in many places. Dr Ambedkar do not belong to any single caste or community but to the entire nation," he said.

THOSE WHO ARE WAITING OUTSIDE WILL ALSO GET OPPORTUNITY: DKS

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, who was addressing Congress workers, said that one does not have to think that those sitting on the dais are leaders. He said that if there are people in the audience, only then can the people on stage become leaders. "I do not differentiate between leaders and party workers," he said. "Time and opportunity will come to those who are sitting down, who are waiting outside and those who are sitting inside," Shivakumar added.

PM to inaugurate Sri Guru Bhairavaikya Mandira

BENGALURU: PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate Sri Guru Bhairavaikya Mandira at Sri Kshetra Adichunchanagiri in Mandya district on Wednesday. The PM is expected to arrive at HAL Airport in Bengaluru around 10am, and he will proceed by helicopter to Mandya. He will take part in the inauguration of Sri Guru Bhairavaikya Mandira at noon. Following the event, he is scheduled to leave Mandya by helicopter and arrive at HAL Airport, Bengaluru, to proceed to Tamil Nadu, sources said. **ENS**

MLA Asif Sait keen to enter cabinet, says he's only minority MLA from NK

NAUSHAD BIJAPUR @ Belagavi

INTENSIFYING the race for cabinet berths within the Congress, **Asif (Raju) Sait** has made a strong pitch for inclusion in the ministry headed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, arguing that he is the lone MLA representing minority communities from North Karnataka.

Sait defended the ongoing lobbying by Congress legislators in New Delhi, stating that there was "nothing wrong" in MLAs meeting the high command to seek ministerial positions. He pointed out that while minority community legislators from regions such as Mysuru, Bengaluru and Mangaluru had been accommodated in the cabinet in the past, North Karnataka had consistently been overlooked.

Sait stressed that Belagavi, regarded as the state's second capital, deserved representation from the minority community in the cabinet. "If given an opportunity, I will work for people of all communities, guided by senior Congress leaders," he said. Despite the mounting pressure from within the party, Sait clarified that he would not join other MLAs travelling to Delhi and would instead wait for the party's decision.

On the party's decision asking CM's political secretary Naseer Ahmed to step down, Sait said he was unaware of the circumstances behind the move. He siad Ahmed had campaigned actively with him in Davanagere.

Sait said minority leaders and legislators united to ensure the party's victory.

Telangana is likely to witness normal to above-normal rainfall during the southwest monsoon season, even as India as a whole is expected to receive below-normal rainfall. IMD forecast indicates that south peninsular region is expected to fare better compared to several other parts of the country

STALIN ISSUES 'FINAL WARNING' TO CENTRE OVER DELIMITATION

Says TN could come to a standstill in protest against Centre's move

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

DMK president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Tuesday, in a strikingly belligerent tone, issued a "final warning" to the BJP government at the centre against "bulldozing" through Constitutional amendments on delimitation in the Parliamentary session convened "hastily" on Thursday amid Assembly elections.

In a video message released on 'X', he warned of major agitations in Tamil Nadu if Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP government proceeded with delimitation in a manner that will harm Tamil Nadu by reducing its representation in Parliament. "Tamil Nadu will come to a standstill and will register its protest with full force," he said.

The CM's concerns stem from the possibility of delimitation being implemented as per population under the latest census. Stalin stated that delimitation would end up being a punishment to southern states that have done well in bringing down population growth. The draft bills for constitutional amendments and the formation of the delimitation commission that were out in the public domain on Tuesday lent credence to Stalin's concerns, though Tamil Nadu BJP leaders continued to argue that the state's representation will not be affected.

Stalin, in his message, said that the people of the southern states are gripped with deep concern. Though campaign for polls is under way, all DMK MPs will attend the three-day parliamentary session to voice their strong opposition, the CM said.

TVK chief Vijay campaigns in Tiruppur ahead of TN Assembly polls on Tuesday | PTI

Delimitation fraught with dangers: Revanth tells PM

HYDERABAD: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to reconsider the proposed pro-rata expansion of Lok Sabha seats, warning that it is "fraught with dangers" and could lead to a structural shift in political power with implications for national unity.

KMF records sharp rise in milk collection

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

EVEN as soaring summer temperatures typically strain dairy production, this year has brought an unexpected trend for farmers. Milk procurement across Karnataka has witnessed a significant surge.

According to data from the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), milk procurement reached 1.2 crore litres on Monday and 1.16 crore litres on Sunday. This marks a substantial increase compared to April 2025, when daily procurement hovered between 85 and 87 lakh litres.

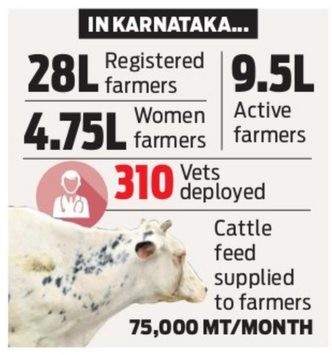
KMF Managing Director B Shivaswamy noted that the average daily procurement in April 2026 had risen to about 1.3 crore litres. Over the past few weeks alone, procurement has increased by around 16%, and when compared to the same period last year, the growth stands at an impressive 52%, reflecting a strong upward trend in milk production despite seasonal challenges.

The KMF is also looking at increasing the nutrient content in the milk supplied. Sources said, "Now with increasing health concerns, discussions with the health ministry and the state health department are being held to see what more nutrients can be added."

In July 2019, KMF announced the addition of Vitamins A and D in milk to provide additional health supplements to consumers. The fortification of milk was done following the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) directions to address the micro-nutrient malnutrition concern.

Officials said, even as one crore litres of milk procurement was recorded in January, it would usually dip during the summer months. But this year it's different. "Continuous supply of good quality fodder is being provided to farmers. A dedicated amount has been reserved for providing support to farmers, apart from the financial incentives they are being given. Since many parts of Karnataka experienced rain, it helped ensure the supply of green fodder," Shivaswamy added.

Another KMF official said that many farmers who suffered horticulture and agricultural losses were able to manage finances with the help of the dairy sector. A 2-3 month stock of fodder has been secured to help farmers.



BJP SLAMS KARNATAKA GOVT OVER ARREST OF YOUNG JOB-SEEKERS

BENGALURU: Opposition BJP leaders have slammed the state government for arresting youths demanding jobs. BJP MLC N Ravi Kumar and Chitradurga MP Govind Karjol said those arrested by police in Dharwad must be released immediately, failing which the party will join the protests across Karnataka. Unemployed youth are protesting, demanding that the State Government fill vacant posts in various government departments. Speaking to media persons in Bengaluru, Ravi Kumar said unemployed youth are protesting in Bengaluru and other places, but the state government is not filling the vacancies, making excuses. The government must call the protesting youth for talks and provide them jobs, he said. The state government had stated that 56,000 posts would be filled, but that has not been done, he said. Over 2.84 lakh posts in government departments are vacant, and the government does not even have the money to pay salaries, he said. Condemning the arrest of the youths demanding jobs, Karjol said the government is not filling vacant posts and is even giving unemployment allowance. They are not even allowed to protest, the BJP MP said. Many unemployed youth are waiting for jobs after attending coaching classes in Dharwad, but the government is delaying the recruitment process it by citing some reasons, he said, and added that the people of the state will not tolerate it.

Buyer has right to know beer's contents

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"IF the government amends brewery rules then one will not be able to ascertain the presence and percentage of sugar, if added during the brewing process. As a consumer, one has the right to know the contents of the brew and drink responsibly," said sources.

The Brewers Association of India (BAI), meanwhile, has "welcomed" the state government's move to withdraw the earlier notification ofmandating malt and sugar content on beer labels. "It was fundamentally flawed as beer does not have traceable sugar in it, and exact malt content is part of the product recipe and confidential trade information," said Director General, Brewers Association of India (BAI), Vinod Giri.

"These requirements are also not standard or part of the FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) regulations. As it is, labels (in Karnataka) are very cluttered and putting additional information, which is irrelevant, serves no purpose. In the last couple of years, the beer industry saw too many irrelevant and unnecessary regulatory interventions of this kind. We were, therefore, particularly pleased to see the Chief Minister announce widespread ease of doing business reforms in his budget speech. This withdrawal is part of that," he said.

Giri added that BAI is "very enthused by the intent and scope of reforms proposed in the (Karnataka) budget and looks forward to notifications covering other proposals as well".

The Karnataka Excise (Brewery) (Amendment) Rules, 2026, shall come into force from the date of their final publication in the official gazette.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client intends to purchase the Schedule Property from its owners **1) SRI. KEMPANNA, Son of Late Giriyappa, 2) SRI. VENKATARAJU, Son of Late Giriyappa, 3)SRI. SRINIVAS T.G, Son of Late Giriyappa, 4) SRI. SHIVANNA, Son of Late Giriyappa,** residing at Thagachaguppe Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk. Any Person/s or Institution/s having any Claim/s or Objection/s in respect of the Schedule Property may file the same along with supporting documentary evidence with the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no claim/s or objection/s is/are received by the undersigned within 15 days as stated above, my client will proceed further as the property is free from all claim/s and objection/s.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No. 1: All that piece and parcel of Agricultural land bearing **Survey No.22/1,** earlier portion of Survey No.22, measuring **1 Acre 06 Guntas**, situated at **Gudimavu Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk**, and bounded on:

East by : Land in Survey No.24;
West by : Thagachaguppe Village Border;
North by : Land in Survey No.24 & Thagachaguppe Village Border;
South by : Land in Survey No.22/2;

Item No. 2: All that piece and parcel of Agricultural land bearing **Survey No.21/6,** earlier portion of Survey No.21/1, measuring **1 Acre 34 Guntas** and 'A' Kharab land of 8¼ Guntas and 'B' Kharab Land of 4¾ Guntas, situated at **Gudimavu Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk,** and bounded on:

East by : Land in Survey No.24;
West by : Land in Survey No.22;
North by : Land in Survey No.24;
South by : Land in Survey No.21/5;

Item No. 3: All that piece and parcel of Agricultural land bearing **Survey No.13/1,** earlier portion of Survey No.13, measuring **12 Guntas** and 'A' Kharab land of 06 Guntas, situated at **Thagachaguppe Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk,** and bounded on:

East by : Gudimavu Village Border;
West by : Lands in Survey No.11, 12 & 13/2;
North by : Nala;
South by : Land in Survey No.14 &Gudimavu Border;

H. UMASHANKAR, Advocate
No: 8, 80ft Road, Chandra Layout, Bengaluru - 560 040.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring the notice of the General Public that my client, **Sri.Santhosh.K**, Son of Smt.Radhamma and Sri.Kaverappa, Aged about 42 Years, Residing at Door No.42, 3rd Cross, Kasavanahalli, Near Church Road, Kaikondarahalli, Bangalore – 560 035., is the absolute owner of the Immovable Property Bearing Site No.42, Katha No.2/2, Measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South 40 Feet, in all Measuring 1200 Square Feet., Situated at Kasavanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore District, and bounded on:East by: Site No.41, West by: Karuna Nivasa, North by: Site No.25, and South by: Road., do hereby declare that he has lost the Original Sale deed dated 15.03.2002, Bearing Document No.13111/2001-02 of Book-1, Stored in CD No.70/2001-02, on the file of Sub Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore District, Executed by Sri.H.Narayanareddy in favour of Smt.Radhamma and Original Gift deed dated 28.01.2013, Bearing Document No.INR-1-05739/2012-13, of Book-1, Stored in CD No.INRD55, on the file of Sub Registrar, Indiranagar, Bangalore District, Executed by Smt.Radhamma in favour of Sri.Santosh.K, while renovating the house, unexpectedly lost or misplaced the above said Original Registered Sale Deed dated 15.03.2002 and Original Registered Gift Deed dated 28.01.2013, With his best efforts he could not able to trace the same, in this regard he has lodged a Online Complaint/police missing Lost Report No:2154787/2026, dated 14.04.2026, since he could not trace the Original documents, if any one find the above said original documents, may kindly be handover the same to the undersigned or to the nearby police station, in case anybody misuse the said documents, my client is not responsible for the same., Any person/s having objection/s or claims, with respect to the schedule property, may with documentary evidence, lodge their objections/claims within seven days from the date of this notice with the undersigned, where after no further claims will be entertained and or the same will be deemed to have been waived or abandoned.

H. R. JAYASHEKARA REDDY, Advocate
No. 348, 6th Main, 15 'A' Cross, 6th Sector, H.S.R.Layout, Bangalore-560 102.
Mob. 8217004281 / 9880715022.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform General Public that my client/s are intending to purchase the schedule property belonging to (i) Sri.Ashish Banerjee, Son of late Dr.A K Banerjee, Aged about 49 years and (ii) Smt.Elena Revinskaya, Wife of Sri.Ashish Banerjee, Aged about 49 years, both are residing at No:879, Seventh Cross, Third Block, Koramangala, Bangalore – 560 034;

Any, person, having any claim over the schedule property claiming through the predecessors in title or any other person, may lodge their objections or claims, in writing with all supporting documentary evidence by speed post with regard to such claim with the undersigned **within 10 (ten) days** hereof, failing which my client/s will proceed to conclude the Sale Transaction. Any claims lodged thereafter will not be entertained by my client/s;

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of entire property bearing Municipal No.879 (earlier site bearing BDA No.879), situated at Third Block, Koramangala, Bangalore, within the limits and administration of Bangalore South Nagara Palike, Bangalore, Corporation Ward No:151-Koramangala (old Ward No:68), PID No.68-2-879, EPID No.4225255587, together with structures standing thereon and bounded on the:

East by : Eighth Main Road;
West by : House bearing No.878;
North by : Seventh Cross Road;
South by : Private property;
MEASURING:
East to West : (21.10+28.80)/2 mtrs.;
North to South : (35.60+36.70)/2 mtrs.
In all admeasuring 901.94 sq.mtrs.;

N S RACHANA, N C JANARDHAN
Advocates
RACHANA LAW ASSOCIATES
"Lakshmideep", I Floor, No.2980, 17th Cross, Banashankari II Stage, Bangalore – 560 070
PH : 9731810810 / 9886284325
Dt:14-04-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform General Public that my client is intending to purchase the schedule property belonging to (i) Sri.Makam Chidananda Nagendra, Son of Late Makam Chidananda Gupta, Aged about 64 years, Residing at No.3825 Mapleshade Lane, Apt.3101 Plano, Texas 75075, USA and (ii) Sri.Surendra Makam, Son of Late Makam Chidananda Gupta, Aged about 63 years, Residing at No.3260 Basalt Ct. Superior, CO 80027 USA.

Any, person, having any claim over the schedule property claiming through the predecessors in title or any other person, may lodge their objections or claims, in writing with all supporting documentary evidence by speed post with regard to such claim with the undersigned **within 10 (ten) days** hereof, failing which my client will proceed to conclude the Sale Transaction. Any claims lodged thereafter will not be entertained by my client;

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of entire residential property bearing Municipal No.6/A/19 (earlier site bearing CITB No.A/6, later Municipal No.19), situated at Thirty First 'A' Cross Road, Seventh Block Jayanagar, Bangalore, within the limits and administration of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore, Corporation Ward No.166-Karisandra (old ward No.59), PID No.59-91-19, EPID No:3881655225, together with structures standing thereon and bounded on the:

East by : Property bearing CITB No.A/2;
West by : Property bearing CITB No.A/10;
North by: Property bearing CITB No.A/5;
South by: Thirty First 'A' Cross Road;
MEASURING:
East to West : 38 feet 6 inches;
North to South: 52 feet 6 inches;
In all ad-measuring 2,021.25 sq.ft.;

N S RACHANA, N C JANARDHAN
Advocates
RACHANA LAW ASSOCIATES
"Lakshmideep", I Floor, No.2980, 17th Cross, Banashankari II Stage, Bangalore – 560 070
PH : 9731810810 / 9886284325
Dt:14-04-2026

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY APPELLATE TRIBUNAL AT CHENNAI
(7th Floor, Addl. Office Building, E-Wing, Shastri Bhavan, Haddows Road, Chennai- 600 006)

I.A.No. of 2026 in AIR No.193 of 2025

Sri Narayana (Deceased), S/o late Muthaiah, Rep.by his LRs Mrs.Mayamma & 2 others … **PETITIONERS/PROPOSED APPELLANTS**

Versus

1. SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd (Formerly Known as Shamrao Vithal Co-operative Bank Ltd and successor to Bangalore Central Bank Ltd/Bangalore Souharda Central Co-operative Bank Ltd … **RESPONDENT/RESPONDENT**
2. **Mr.Shesah Sayee @ Sesha Sai** and 5 other … **PROPOSED RESPONDENTS**

To, **1. Mr.Shesha Sayee @ Shesha Sai,** S/o late Narayana, No.119, 3rd Cross, 5th Main Road, Channamankere Achukattu, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560 085

2. Mrs.Jayanthi, W/o late Rajagopal, R/at 1st Cross, Behind KEB Office, Siddarth Nagar also known as Ambedkar NagarMaddur Town, Mandya District

3. Mrs. Pushpa, W/o Nagaraj, R/at Dolahalli Village, Ganalu Post, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District

4. Mrs.Vijaya, w/o Anilkumar, R/at 119, 3rd Cross, 5th Main Road, Channamanakere Achukattu BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru- 560 085

5. Mrs.N.Sharada, W/o Krishnaiah, R/at No.68, Kempanna Layout, Near Nandhini Milk Centre Brightway School Main Road, Gowdanpalya, Bangalore.

5. Mrs.Swarna Jyothi, W/o Santhosh Kumar, R/at 4/2, First Main, Vinayaganagara Kengeri Satellite, (Kengeri Upanagara) Kengeri, Bengaluru.

Please take notice that the above petitioners/appellants have filed an applications in i) I.A.Nos.459/2026 to condone the delay in filing petition to implead, ii) I.A.No.460/2026 to setaside the abatement and iii) I.A.No.461/2026 to implead you as proposed respondents 2 to 7 in the above appeal preferred against the order dated 03.08.2023 made in M.A.No.7/2021 in O.A.No.816/2017 on the file of DRT-2, Bangalore. The above applications stand posted for your appearance on 06.05.2026. Therefore you are required to appear before the Hon'ble DRAT, Chennai on **06.05.2026** at **10.30 A.M.** either in person or through your counsel failing which the above applications will be decided in your absence

Counsel for Petitioners: **G. DESINGU**

BEFORE THE HON'BLE XXXIX ADDL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS COURT AT BANGALORE CCH 40

P & SC. No.104 of 2026

BETWEEN :

Mr.Vikram Viswanath
S/o.Late Viswanatha Iyer
Aged about 55 years and residing at
No.865, 12th Main, 3rd Block, Near Post Office,
Koramangala Bengaluru 560 034
Represented by his power of attorney holder
Mr.Chandrashekar Viswanath

Mr.Chandashekar Viswanath
S/o.Late Viswanatha Iyer
Aged about 52 years and residing at
No.270 1st Block, 4th Main, Koramangala Bengaluru 560 034 **PETITIONER'S**

AND

NIL **RESPONDENTS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the above named petitioners being the legal heirs of Late Viswanatha Iyer and Rajalakshmi Viswanath have filed a Petition under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, praying for issue of Succession Certificate in respect of the various investments in the form of equity shares in various entities, safe deposit locker bearing No.1087 maintained with State Bank of India, St.Marks Road Branch, Bengaluru which is morefully described in the below mentioned Schedule held by Late Viswanatha Iyer and Rajalakshmi Viswanath.

Any person having any objection/s for issue of Succession Certificate in favour of the petitioners, and any person having interest, may cause the same by appearing before the Hon'ble City Civil Judge, Bangalore City (CCH-40) Court in person or through his/her Advocate on this the **28 day of April, 2026 at 11:00 AM,** failing which the matter will be heard and disposed off in accordance with law.

SCHEDULE

TATA STEELS LIMITED

Sl No	FOLIO NO	CERTIFICATE NO	Distinctive No from	Distintive No to	No of shares	Name of the share holder	Name of the company
1	S1R0079019	R3709328	1125676704	1125676705	2	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISWANATH	TATA STEEL LTD
2	S1R0076879	R3709316	1125675374	1125675377	4	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISWANATH	TATA STEEL LTD
3	PVR0079017	R5009150	1203918314	1203918315	2	MRS RAJAJALSHMI VISWANATH & MR VISWANATHA IYER	TATA STEEL LTD
4	S1R0079017	V3389326	382061923	382061930	8	MRS RAJAJALSHMI VISWANATH & MR VISWANATHA IYER	TATA STEEL LTD
5	S1 R0076879	V 3389034	382043435	382043440	6	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISWANATH	TATA STEEL LTD
6	S1 R0079019	V 3389327	382061931	382061934	4	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISWANATH	TATA STEEL LTD
7	S1R 0079017	37871	55178191	55178590	400	MRS RAJAJALSHMI VISWANATH & MR VISWANATHA IYER	TATA STEEL LTD
8	R0600091	511	414941	415080	140	MRS RAJAJALSHMI VISWANATH & MR VISWANATHA IYER	TATA STEEL LTD
9	S1R0079019	37872	55178591	55178790	200	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISWANATH	TATA STEEL LTD
10	S1R0076879	37823	55101691	55102000	310	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISWANATH	TATA STEEL LTD
11	S1R050094	40885	58978301	58978580	280	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISHWANATH & Mr C VISHWANATH IYER	TATA STEEL LTD
12	S1R0079019	C-3513582	796827973	796827974	2	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISWANATH	TATA STEEL LTD
13	S1R0079017	C-3513581	796827969	796827972	4	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISHWANATH & Mr C VISHWANATH IYER	TATA STEEL LTD
14	S1R0076879	C-3513562	796827521	79687523	3	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISWANATH	TATA STEEL LTD
15	S1R0500094	R3714312	1125311857	1125311884	28	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISHWANATH & Mr C VISHWANATH IYER	TATA STEEL LTD
16	PVR0076879	R5005911	1204056154	1204056155	2	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISWANATH	TATA STEEL LTD
17	PVR0600091	R5009172	1203918709	1203918722	14	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISHWANATH & Mr C VISHWANATH IYER	TATA STEEL LTD
18	PVR0079019	R5005920	1204056978	1204056978	1	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISWANATH	TATA STEEL LTD
19	S1R0079017	R3714282	1125311094	1125311098	5	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISHWANATH & Mr C VISHWANATH IYER	TATA STEEL LTD
20	S1R0075610	3982084	282699515	282699780	266	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISWANATH	THE TATA IRON AND STEEL COMPANY LTD
21	S1R0079017	3988942	282868448	282868453	6	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISHWANATH & Mr C VISHWANATH IYER	THE TATA IRON AND STEEL COMPANY LTD
22	S1R0076879	3984598	282766314	282766315	2	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISWANATH	THE TATA IRON AND STEEL COMPANY LTD
23	S1R0079019	3988950	282868774	282868781	8	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISWANATH	THE TATA IRON AND STEEL COMPANY LTD
24	S1R0079017	3988941	282868438	282868447	10	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISHWANATH & Mr C VISHWANATH IYER	THE TATA IRON AND STEEL COMPANY LTD
25	S1R0076879	3984597	282766304	282766313	10	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISWANATH	THE TATA IRON AND STEEL COMPANY LTD
26	SIR0075610	3982090	282699775	282699780	6	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISWANATH	THE TATA IRON AND STEEL COMPANY LTD

Mrs. Rajalakshmi Viswanath also maintained a locker bearing No.1087 with State Bank of India, St. Marks Road Branch

UNIT TRUST OF INDIA

Sl No	CERTIFICATE NO		NO OF UNITS	REMAKRS	NAME OF THE COMPANY
1	MEP-300-95-1590134302	04371966/01055/ CC108495/ 10.3.95	1000	units in the name of Mr C Viswanatha Iyer and Nominee is RajaLakshmi Viswanath	UNIT TRUST OF INDIA
2	MEP-300-95-1590199483	04671970/01073/ CC111994 / 30.03.95	1000	units in the name of Mrs Raji Viswanath and Nominee is C Viswanatha Iyer	UNIT TRUST OF INDIA

UNITED BREWERIES LIMITED

Sl No	FOLIO NO	CERTIFICATE NO	DISTINCTIVE NO FROM	DISTINTIVE NO TO	NO OF SHARES	REMAKRS	Name of the company
1	R211	040678	3790953	9791052	100	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISHWANATH	UNITED BREWARIES LTD
2	R211	040677	3790853	3790952	100	MRS RAJALAKSHMI VISHWANATH	UNITED BREWARIES LTD

Given under my hand, seal on this the 15 day of April, 2026.

Advocate for Petitioners
K.VENKATRAMANI
ADVOCATE
"NALAJA" C- 4 269, 3rd Main Road,
Domlur II Stage, III Phase, Bengaluru 560 0971

By orders of the Court.
Assistant Registrar
City Civil Court, Bengaluru

YOUR GUIDE TO SPICY LIVING
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Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

HINDUJA LEYLAND FINANCE LIMITED

Corporate Office: 27 A, Developed Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai 600032. **CIN:** U65993MH2008PLC384221.
Branch Office: No.50, 4th Floor, Vinay Arcade, K. H. Road, Bengaluru (KA) - 560027

E-AUCTION – SALE NOTICE
Sale of secured immovable asset under SARFAESI Act

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the "Act") read with Rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Mortgagor (s)/Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to **HINDUJA LEYLAND FINANCE LTD** (hereinafter referred to as the **"Secured Creditor"** as per the Act) , the **PHYSICAL POSSESSION** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) of the Act read with Rules 8 and 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rule pursuant to notice under section 13(2) of the Act.

The Secured Assets will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 25-05-2026** through E-Auction. It is hereby informed to General public that we are going to conduct public through E-Auction platform provided at the **website: www.auctionfocus.in.** For detailed T&Cs of sale, please refer to link provided in HLF/Secured Creditor's **website i.e. www.hindujaleylandfinance.com**

Account No. Name of Borrower, Co- Borrower	A) Demand Notice Date- B) Outstanding Balance as per Demand Notice C) Possession date	A) Foreclosure Date B) Outstanding Balance as per Foreclosure	Description of Property	1. Reserve Price 2. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP). 3. Bid Incremental Amount	1. Date and time of Auction 2. Last Date of Submission EMD 3. Date & time of property Inspection
Account No.: KABNBN04227 & TNCPCOC000231 **1. M/s. FI Design & Development Pvt. Ltd., Represented by Managing Directors Mr. Yogesh Srinivasan and Mrs. Kasturi Yogesh,** **2. Mr. Yogesh Srinivasan, S/o. Arcot Srinivasan,** **3. Mrs. Kasthuri Yogesh, W/o. Yogesh Srinivasan,** **4. Ms. Samrithe Yogesh, D/o. Yogesh Srinivasan.**	**A) Demand Notice Date: 19-09-2023** **B) Outstanding Balance as per Demand Notice: Rs.7,98,49,094/-** (Rupees Seven Crore Ninety-Eighty Lakhs Forty-Nine Thousand Ninety-Four Only) as on 08.09.2024. **C) Possession Date: 17-07-2025** **D) Type of Possession: Physical Possession**	**A) Foreclosure Date: 10-04-2026** **B) Outstanding Balance as per Foreclosure: Rs.10,68,83,124.78** (Rupees Ten Crore Sixty-Eight Lakh Eighty-Three Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Four and Seventy-Eight Paise Only)	**SCHEDULE OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Flat No.F-1 & F-2, in the first floor, in the commercial Building known as "Favourite Plaza", having built up area 3714.4Sq.Ft., along with 22.74% of undivided share, formed in municipal No.15, New No.15/1 & 15/2 (PID Nos.86-63-15/1 & 86-63-15/2), situated at Madras sappers Officers Colony also known as M.E.G Officers Colony Marutisevangar, Corporation Division formerly bearing No.49, thereafter 74 now new BBMP was No.86, Bangalore-560033. Presently within the limits BBMP and bounded on: East by : Private Property bearing Nos.20 & 21, Madras Sapper Officer's Colony, West by : Road, North by : Banaswadi Main Road, South by : Premises No.38, Madras Sapper Officer's Colony Belonging To Colonel Mohan Rao.	**Reserve Price: Rs.3,10,00,000/-** (Rupees Three Crores Ten Lakhs Only) **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): Rs.31,00,000/-** (Rupees Thirty One Lakhs Only) **Bid Incremental Amount: Rs.1,00,000/-** (Rupees One Lakh Only)	**Date and Time of Auction:** 25-05-2026 Time : (2:00 PM To 3:00 PM) **Last Date of Submission of EMD with KYC:** 23-05-2026 Before 05:00 PM **Date & Time of Property Inspection:** Date : 21-05-2026 Time: Before 02:00 PM.

The intending bidders/purchasers are advised to visit Secured Creditor Branch and the auction properties, and make his own enquiry and ascertain additional charges, encumbrances and any third-party interests and satisfy himself/herself/itself in all aspects thereto before submitting the bids. All statutory dues like property taxes, electricity/water dues and any other dues, if any, attached to the property to be ascertained and paid by the successful bidder.

The interested bidders are required to register themselves with the portal and obtain login ID and Password well in advance, which is mandatory for e-bidding, from auction service provider) **M/s. AUCTION FOCUS PVT.LTD. Email id - support@auctionfocus.in. Contact Person - Mrs. Shraddha, Contact number - 90166 41848 & Contact Person - Mr. Karan Soni Contact number - 94276 22242** please note that Prospective bidders may avail online training on e-auction from them only. The intending purchaser/bidder is required to submit amount of the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) by way of by way of NEFT/RTGS /DD in the account of **"HINDUJA LEYLAND FINANCE LTD", Bank- Kotak Mahindra Bank. Account No-3011253960 and IFSC Code- KKBK0000462,** having its branch at **Anna Salai** drawn on any Nationalized or Scheduled Bank on or before **23-05-2026** and register their name at **https://www.auctionfocus.in** and get user ID and password free of cost and get training on e-Auction from the service provider. After their Registration on the website, the intending purchaser/bidder is required to get the copies of the following documents uploaded, e-mail and sent self-attested hard copy at **Address:** No.50, 4th Floor, Vinay Arcade, K. H. Road, Bengaluru (KA) - 560027, Authorised Officer: **1. Mr. S. Narendra Kumar, Mobile No.9900162320, e-mail ID: narendrakumar@hindujaleylandfinance.com, 2. Mr. Subhas Maradannavar, Mobile No.8310001934, e-mail ID: subhas.maradannavar@hindujaleylandfinance.com, 3. Mr. Vijay T. Mobile No. 9845339107, e-mail ID vijay.t@hindujaleylandfinance.com. For further details on terms and conditions please visit https://www.auctionfocus.in & www.hindujaleylandfinance.com to take part in e-auction.**

Date : 15-04-2026, Place: Bangalore

Authorised Officer
Hinduja Leyland Finance Limited

EDITORIAL

"The purpose of studying economics is not to acquire a set of ready-made answers to economic questions, but to learn how to avoid being deceived by economists" — Joan Robinson

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.
— Ramnath Goenka

DARKENING WAR CLOUDS FUEL WORRIES OF FOOD INFLATION RISING IN APRIL

THE drip-down effect of the Iran war is beginning to inflict pain on Indians. Retail inflation rose to 3.4 percent in March from 3.21 percent in the previous month, mainly driven by higher fuel and food prices. Though still below the Reserve Bank's red-flag level of 4 percent, the March inflation was at a 13-month high, according to the revised Consumer Price Index. Food inflation rose to 3.87 percent in March from 3.47 percent in February, mainly driven by the rising prices of fresh vegetables. The difference between rural and urban inflation widened, with rural food inflation racing to 3.96 percent in March over 3.46 percent the previous month.

The disruption in energy supplies was visible through March. Despite New Delhi managing to get a concession from Tehran to get some India-bound oil tankers through the Hormuz Strait, what arrived was far lower than the share of India's needs that usually passes through the waterway. Government assurances notwithstanding, the shortage of gas and consequent higher cost of alternative fuel are taking a toll on the wider economy.

Unfortunately, the war clouds on the horizon seem darker despite a brief ray of sunshine. The first round of talks between the US-Israel axis and Iran has failed; mediator Pakistan has floated hopes of another round. Meanwhile, a petulant US President is threatening to turn the partial Hormuz blockade into a complete one. India has so far protected the pump prices of fuel sold by state-owned companies by forgoing nearly ₹1.5 lakh crore in excise duty, thanks to the ongoing assembly election. But this is unlikely to persist once voting is over on April 29. The market expects the April retail inflation to creep up to 3.8 percent and the average for the April-June quarter to surpass 4 percent.

These estimates will seem conservative if the Gulf conflict lingers. The cascading downstream impact has serious implications, too. The shortage of liquefied natural gas, on which fertiliser production depends, will bear heavily on farm budgets and push up food prices in a season the monsoon is expected to be sub-par. One can only hope the current shaky ceasefire moves to a permanent settlement so that normal trade lines are restored. In the long run, diversifying our energy sources further is a necessity so that shocks on the scale being witnessed at present are avoided.

ALTER EDU EXPECTATION TO BOOST CHILD FITNESS

THAT only about a third of India's schoolchildren have 'adequate' stamina is an alarming indicator for a country with the world's largest youth population. The 14th annual health survey by Sportz Village, which covered 1.4 lakh children in 333 schools across the country, found that nearly two-thirds of them failed basic aerobic fitness standards. About two-fifths fell outside a healthy body mass index range. Public school students outdid their private school counterparts on stamina and flexibility. Increasingly sedentary lifestyles affected all, leading to weak muscle development. In all, the emerging picture presages a host of possible public health crises in the future.

Covid disruptions did affect children's fitness around the world. But continuing to blame the increasing lack of fitness in school-going children mostly on the pandemic would be misleading. It would ignore the monolithic idea of education we have created—one that lacks a vision for their physical and all-round growth. Our competitive academic system leaves little space for physical activity or experiential learning. Physical education is mostly treated as an extra-curricular activity, sending a message that it is optional. Many schools do not have open areas or playgrounds for physical activity. Outside schools, there are hardly any safe spaces for children to play in most cities.

For parents, the primary aspiration for their children is academic brilliance, while playing sports is often seen as an afterthought in cities or merely another avenue for achievement—winning prizes, accolades and becoming champions. In contrast, children in villages often improvise games with whatever resources available and play for enjoyment. Introducing yoga in schools is a step forward, but it remains only a small beginning in addressing a much larger structural gap in children's physical development.

Malnutrition is another concern contributing to declining health parameters and immunity in children. Given changing lifestyles, increase in working parents and decline of structured family routines, processed foods have increasingly taken over children's diets, with serious consequences especially in urban areas. In rural regions, much still needs to be done on maternal and child health. Timely corrective measures in schools and at homes can help foster healthier young minds and bodies. We owe it to our children and the nation's future to demand a more holistic education now.

QUICK TAKE

SEEING NO LONGER BELIEVING

A scientific prank has laid bare the dangerous gullibility of artificial intelligence models. In 2024, Almira Osmanovic Thunström, a doctoral candidate in medical technology at the University of Gothenburg, uploaded two phoney studies on a fake eye condition called bixonimania. Soon enough, AI chatbots were waxing eloquent on it and advising people what to do if symptoms surfaced. She did it to show how AI systems trawl the internet to gather 'knowledge' and can be coaxed to blur the line between the truth and a lie. This underlines the grave risk that Indians, who are increasingly treating chatbots as experts to understand lab reports and offer medical advice, are putting themselves in. What not to do with AI should be part of the school curriculums trying to evangelise the technology.

Apart from using coordinated force and building infrastructure, the effort to rid nation of Naxal violence included de-romanticising the ideology and weaning away young tribal community members

HOW NAXALS WERE COMPELLED TO BID FAREWELL TO ARMS

VINAY SAHASRABUDDHE
Senior BJP leader

SOURAV ROY

THOSE who know Union Home Minister Amit Shah also know about his ideological commitment, political acumen and organisational skills. But many may not know how he integrates these traits through strong political will.

This will has been manifest in both the high-profile national roles he has played: as BJP president earlier and as Union home minister now. From the abrogation of Article 370 to seeing through the Citizenship Amendment Act, many legislative feats were scripted by him. But the most unique could be his courage of conviction in proclaiming that by March 31, 2026, the nation would be free from the threat of Naxalism. It is remarkable that he has fulfilled the promise.

According to government data, the number of districts affected by left-wing extremism—the name by which Naxalism is officially referred to—was reduced to 11 in 2025 from 126 before 2014. While the whittling down has been officially attributed to a strategy combining targeted security operations (killing and surrender of Maoist commanders), infrastructure development (building roads and mobile towers) and broadening of developmental aid in the affected areas, certain other factors have also contributed.

At least five other key aspects of the Centre's considered strategy merit analysis—concerted efforts for de-romanticisation of Naxalism, a non-compromisingly implemented policy of zero-tolerance to violence, taking up infrastructure projects as a gateway to human development while emphasising local people as the primary stakeholders, breaking the nexus between Naxal leaders and administration officials, and demolishing networks of 'urban Naxals'.

Through these multi-faceted measures, the authorities ensured that the gen-next of tribal communities realised there was nothing 'cool' about being a Naxal. The government also dextrously established that it is prudent to take the path of peace and surrender unconditionally. While a well-curated carrot-and-stick approach was taken, transformative governance was seen as demonstrably preferred to punitive actions. Most key leaders who opted to surrender were given a hero's welcome, apart from help to settle down in other areas respectably, swiftly.

Over the last two years, a total of 1,053 extremists opted to bid farewell to arms. Rehabilitation programmes like the Lon Varratu (meaning 'Return to your home' in Gondi language) initiative encouraged the reintegration of Maoist cadres in society. Between 2020 and 2024, over 1,000 Maoists surrendered under the programme, receiving housing, skills training and financial aid tailored to their ranks. A study commissioned by the Bureau of Police Research and Development concluded, "These measures have mitigated animosity and fostered trust between the State and affected communities."

This was complimented by a policy of zero tolerance towards violence. On the one hand, central agencies like the National Investigative Agency and Enforcement Directorate dismantled Maoist financial networks, seizing crores of rupees in assets. On the other, specialised forces like the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action and the Greyhound unit targeted top Naxal leaders, leading to a 90 percent drop in fatalities since 2010.

Security interventions were given more impetus to address operational challenges more effectively. It was ensured that the number of fortified police stations in the Naxal-affected districts was taken to 586 in 2025 from 66 in 2014 and the impact of this was for all to see. This strengthened the morale of the forces apart from providing essential protection and infrastructure.

Also, since 2014, there has been far closer coordination between Naxal-affected states and the Central Armed Police Forces. As a result, between 2020 and 2022, the forces could jointly neutralise 14 politburo members, creating a leadership vacuum within the Maoist hierarchy. Local recruitment initiatives like the Bastariya Battalion and Bastar Fighters also served as confidence-building measures with more people familiar with the terrain and culture joining the forces.

Besides all this, the policy of using infrastructure as a gateway to opportunities and giving a sense of being a stakeholder in development to tribal communities also helped. In Chhattisgarh's Bastar, the heart of Maoist activity, 9,912 km of roads were constructed between 2014 and 2023 under the Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Areas, compared to less than 3,000 km in the previous decade.

Those who regularly visit Dantewada witnessed how iconic projects like the Chhindnar bridge connected remote villages, reduced security vacuums and facilitated economic activity. The BPRD study noted, "Enhanced mobile connectivity through the installation of 4,072 towers in phase two of the mobile connectivity project has empowered local youth with educational opportunities and countered Maoist propaganda. Financial inclusion has also improved, with 4,903 new post offices, 955 bank branches and 839 ATMs established in affected areas since 2016, promoting local development."

What has also been remarkable is a well-crafted policy of breaking the back of elements thriving on clandestine nexus between Naxals and power-brokers, with interests vested in largely manufactured conflicts. The link between Naxal cadres and their supporters within the police and administration, which historically allowed Maoists to operate along the Red Corridor, was systematically destroyed through a strategy comprising proactive intelligence, legal action and sanitisation of police forces.

In official documents, this is referred to as the process of transitioning from a defensive posture to an aggressive 'clear-hold-build' approach. Yet another creatively-conceived project was of reaching out to 'misguided brethren' to win them back, undertaken with the vision of developing a community policing strategy for Naxalism-affected areas. It was done to prevent subversive elements from misguiding and brainwashing the local population, weaning away the already-subverted ones and facilitating provisioning of basic amenities and livelihoods for the local youth.

Unravelling the network of urban Naxals was also given high priority in the overall strategy. In this regard, Home Minister Shah was clear and upfront. He is on record saying, "Why have roads not been built in left-wing-dominated areas? Because the Naxalites killed the contractors." He added, "Why don't intellectuals who write lengthy articles advising the government write about the victimised tribals?" For the first time, somebody was calling a spade a spade.

(Views are personal)
(vinays57@gmail.com)

THE GREAT PR GIG IN THE SKY

KAJAL BASU
Veteran journalist

ACCORDING to Nasa, the primary goal of the Artemis II moonshot was "a crewed test flight in lunar space". This says nothing that was not true of the earlier nine manned moonflights, six of which actually landed astronauts on the lunar surface. So, what makes Artemis II worth all the hype?

First, demonstrate the ability of systems and teams to sustain the crew in the flight environment and through their return to Earth. Second, demonstrate the systems and operations essential to a crewed lunar campaign; this ranges from ground systems to space hardware, and operations spanning from development to launch, flight and recovery. Third, retrieve flight hardware and data to assess performance for future missions. Fourth, show emergency system capabilities and validate procedures such as to abort and rescue. Fifth, verify subsystems and validate data.

Each one of these was the deal in the manned Apollo moonflights—all of which happened in four short years between 1968 and 1972. Nothing manned moved lunarwards thereafter for 54 years. As Nasa struggled with establishment antiscientism, space monies were redirected to missile development in the Cold War. Nasa's funding plummeted 42 percent from 1966 to 1972, when the Apollo programme ended—and the public mood in the US turned on a dime from cosmic triumphalism after the first 1969 moonlanding to "space fatigue".

The Apollo 17 crew was the last to be more than 640 km from Earth. Since then, astronauts have only been in low Earth orbits, as a superswarm of communications satellites grew and the International Space Station was placed in orbit. For more than half a century, human spacefaring has stuck close to *mater mundi*, as if fearfully lashed to her so as not to fall overboard in the stormy cosmic seas. And all this despite having the tried-and-tested technology to get to Luna, hit it running, cast around for moonrocks and moondust, stick national ensigns in the regolith, and speed our way back. And splashdown using a methodology—re-entry thermal protection, parachute sequence, landing velocity, recovery operation—that has not changed a whit in decades.

There has been much hoopla about the distance from Earth that Artemis II covered—406,771 km. In 1970, Apollo 13—that legendary flight that survived an exploding oxygen tank and made its way back to Earth using the slingshot procedure—had covered 400,171 km. This means that Artemis II covered a mere 1.65 percent more distance than Apollo 13. For all the hoopla, Artemis II's closest approach to the Moon's surface was a distant 6,545 km, compared to the average of 110 km of the Apollo missions. Apollo 13 itself flew over the Moon's farside at 251 km.

AP

Artemis II cost four days' worth of US spending on the Iran war. But what substantive thing did the first human moonflight in more than half a century achieve except expensive PR? The farside of the Moon isn't unknown and slingshot space travel isn't new

"At their much higher altitude," Nasa's Scientific Visualization Studio wrote on April 6, explaining the distance Artemis II kept from the lunar surface, "the crew will be able to see the entire disk of the Moon throughout their flyby." So Artemis II's announced USP: a sweeping view, panoptic of the Moon's farside for all of 40 minutes—armed with, as Nasa says, "a fleet of cameras" and "a variety of digital handheld cameras".

This has proved to be great for social media dissemination and chest-pounding. But the Nasa statement sounds bizarre in these times of superhigh resolution and AI enhancement: that "one of the most powerful scientific tools for observation are the four pairs of eyes observing lunar features with varying illumination and texture".

Nor is it the case that the farside of the Moon is unmapped. While about 18 percent of the side has been occasionally visible due to oscillation and libration, it was first seen in its entirety in 1959 following the Soviet Luna 3 unmanned spacecraft's swingby. Less than a decade later, in 1968, Apollo 8's astronauts were the first humans to see the farside. Since then, it has been photographed in great detail by several Nasa missions, the motion-blurring and off-focus resolved by photographic stacking to eventually constitute a formidable repository of images.

There is *prima facie* little that is unique to the Artemis II mission—no explorative uniqueness, arduousness or consequential magnitude. Its mission objectives number 21, flight test objectives 115, demonstration flight test objectives 31. The first are a mix of the usual design, constructional, physiological and methodological testing protocols that have formed the baseline of every manned moonflight, plus some modern-day safety, electronics and communications procedures. The second are purely machine-testing procedures, and the potential limits of their stressability and reliance. The third are routine tasks related to water, physiology, cabin pressure, etc. Most of these tests and exercises have been carried out routinely at the International Space Station for 28 years.

Cost is not the issue here: each Artemis launch costs $4.1 billion, with the total Artemis programme to cost more than $125 billion until the planned Artemis IV moonlanding in 2025. Artemis II's cost works out to four days' worth of spending on the US's war on Iran. It isn't a puny spend, but it won't break the bank.

Artemis II is an essential PR job dressed-up as prodigious science. It is a run-up to a Nasa moonbase project planned for 2029-32—with the cost to be borne largely by American taxpayers and supplemented by international and private-sector partners.

(Views are personal)
(kajalrbasu@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Slower payments

Ref: *Fine balance needed* (Apr 14). The new regulations are in the interest of citizens considering the immediate window after realisation of fraud brings in immense anxiety. The RBI deserves compliments for allowing ample time to consider transactions with due diligence and proper consultations in the case of suspicious activity.
Jayaprakash Reddy, Nalgonda

Shuttling glory

Ref: *A silver lining* (Apr 14). This feat indeed augurs well for Indian badminton, props to the young prodigy Ayush Shetty. Bagging a final spot for India after 61 years is no light burden. This Silver will significantly boost his morale for the future seasons.
Bal Govind, Noida

India-Bangladesh reset

Ref: *New Bangladesh govt* (Apr 14). The early signs are positive and Tarique Rahman appears to be committed to mutual trust and reciprocal benefits. His landslide mandate gives him the space to deliver on diplomacy without immediate coalition blackmail. Delivering on visible minority safety and balancing the Pakistan/China engagement without undermining the India reset will be a stupendous task before him.
A Thirugnanasambantham, Coimbatore

Grassroots leadership

Ref: *For quotas within the quota* (Apr 14). Women's reservation without internal safeguards may replicate existing hierarchies. Sub-quotas, backed by clear data and periodic review, can ensure fair access for marginalised groups. Political parties must also widen candidate selection and invest in grassroots leadership development to make representation genuinely inclusive.
Swathi Senthilkumar, email

Quixotic Trump

Ref: *Pope pushes back* (Apr 14). Like Don Quixote tilting at windmills, the megalomaniac US President has been lashing out at all at the Pope, who incidentally is the pontiff of 1.4 billion Catholics across the world—an astronomical figure that Trump can only gape at in wonder.
C V Aravind, Chennai

Lasting ceasefire

Ref: *Failed US-Iran talks* (Apr 13). The much needed peace derailed because of aggressive continuation of military actions. It's high time for the peace-loving nations to push for a lasting ceasefire to avoid further killing which has already entered its seventh week.
P P Sahadevan, Kasaragod

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Priyanka Chaturvedi @priyankac19
If seats are going up to 850 in the LS then parliament should add more working days for each session so as to add more time for zero hour, question hour and bills

Derek O'Brien @derekobrienmp
Today is April 14. Session in 48 hours. No one has even seen a copy of the proposed Constitutional Amendment. This is what dictatorship looks like.

Amit Malviya @amitmalviya
If they remain so disconnected from the state's strengths, can they truly be expected to revive Bengal's economic prospects or create meaningful opportunities?

Make our democracy stronger and more vibrant, Modi tells women

PM's letter urges them to call upon their MPs to support amended bill in special session

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR & NARENDRA SETHI
@ New Delhi/Dehradun

A day ahead of the three-day special session of Parliament to clear amendments to the women's reservation Act 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said Indian democracy would become stronger if the 2029 elections are conducted with implementation of 33% women's quota.

"Our democracy will become stronger and more vibrant if the 2029 Lok Sabha elections and various assembly elections that year are held with women's reservation fully in place," Modi underlined in his letter to women. Earlier, he had written to leaders of all Opposition parties seeking their support for the proposed amendments to the women's bill, to be taken up during the special session from April 16 to 18.

In what appears to be a planned outreach to women through an open letter coinciding with B R Ambedkar's birth anniversary, the PM urged them to write to their MPs in support of the amendments. He emphasised that when women actively participate in policy-making and decision-making, the journey towards a 'Viksit Bharat' gains greater momentum. "It is imperative that we do whatever is possible to add more vigour to our development trajectory and for that, the active participation of women is absolutely non-negotiable," he said. He explained that this guiding principle led to the passage of the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' in 2023, and that the same principle now underpins the urgency of the proposed constitutional amendments.

"It is important that we all come together and ensure that women's representation in legislative bodies is introduced in letter and spirit at the earliest," he said. "When the voice of women becomes stronger in our legislatures, the voice of democracy becomes stronger. I seek your blessings and the blessings of crores of women across the length and breadth of India for the upcoming Parliament sitting and for the passage of the constitutional amendment," he added.

Highlighting women's achievements across sectors, Modi said that it is appropriate to increase their representation in legislative bodies accordingly. Referring to the start-up ecosystem, he noted that many ventures now have women in leadership roles. He highlighted the growing participation of women in science, innovation, academia, literature, art, music, cinema, dance and heritage, adding that transformation is visible in sports.

"Indian women athletes are winning more medals, breaking records and challenging old mindsets. Their successes are inspiring several other young girls to pursue sports," he said. He expressed concerns that despite repeated efforts over the past three to four decades to enhance women's participation in legislatures, these initiatives had not fully succeeded. "Unfortunately, a subject on which there has always been consensus was never able to reach its logical conclusion. As the people of India immerse themselves in realising the dream of a Viksit Bharat by then, let us ensure that justice is done to the aspirations of India's Nari Shakti, which is almost half of our population," he said.

Inaugurating the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor, Modi urged all parties to support implementation of Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam in the 2029 elections, calling it the "collective sentiment" of the nation. "Let all political parties come together to unanimously take forward this initiative, which concerns the rights of the nation's sisters and daughters," PM said in Dehradun.

'Women's role vital for Viksit Bharat'

The PM said that when women participate in policy-making, the journey towards a 'Viksit Bharat' gains greater momentum. "It is imperative that we do whatever is possible to add more vigour to our development trajectory and for that, participation of women is absolutely non-negotiable".

'Quota for 2029 polls a collective sentiment'

Modi urged all parties to support implementation of Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam in the 2029 polls, calling it the "collective sentiment" of the nation. "Let all parties come together to take forward this initiative, which concerns rights of the nation's sisters and daughters," he said.

Leaders pay tribute to B R Ambedkar on his birth anniversary on Tuesday | PTI

> **It is important that we all come together and ensure that women's representation in legislative bodies is introduced in letter and spirit at the earliest** —Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Israel cites reasons for collapse of US-Iran talks, flags nuke concerns

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

ISRAEL briefed India on the rapidly evolving West Asia situation and the collapse of US-Iran talks during a phone conversation between Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday, as tensions continue to escalate.

The outreach comes in the wake of failed high-stakes negotiations between Washington and Tehran in Islamabad, which ended without a breakthrough after prolonged discussions, leaving key disagreements over Iran's nuclear programme unresolved.

Detailing the conversation, Saar said he discussed the broader geopolitical situation with Jaishankar, including Iran, the Strait of Hormuz and Lebanon. "A good conversation, as always, with my friend, India's Minister of External Affairs," he said. Saar then went on to emphasis on the importance of a firm US position in ongoing nuclear negotiations with Iran. "I said that the firm American stance in the negotiations on conditions that would prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons (no enrichment in Iran, removal of enriched material from Iran) is critical for the entire international community," he said.

He also raised concerns over maritime security, warning of broader economic implications. "I also said that Iran's harm to freedom of navigation and the global economy through economic terrorism in the Strait of Hormuz requires action that will ensure the freedom of navigation for all countries, including India and our friends in the Gulf," Saar added. The Strait of Hormuz remains a key flashpoint, given its role as a vital global energy corridor. Any disruption in the region has direct implications for energy markets and trade flows, making it a central concern for countries like India that rely heavily on Gulf supplies.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday also discussed the evolving security situation in West Asia during a phone conversation with Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, as diplomatic engagements intensify amid rising regional tensions. In a post on X, Jaishankar said the two leaders exchanged views on the conflict in West Asia and its wider implications for global stability and maritime security. "Appreciated the exchange of views today with @SenatorWong of Australia," he said.

The conversation comes at a time when India has stepped up diplomatic outreach with key partners in the Indo-Pacific and Gulf regions, as developments in West Asia continue to raise concerns over energy flows and regional stability. Both India and Australia have been closely tracking the impact of the ongoing conflict on trade routes and the security of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical chokepoint for global energy supplies.

Jaishankar has also stepped up diplomatic outreach with key regional partners. On Monday, he spoke with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, focusing on the evolving regional situation and the welfare of the Indian community.

Misri to brief standing committee on external affairs

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri is set to brief the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, on April 16, chaired by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, on the evolving situation in West Asia, according to official sources. This comes amid heightened diplomatic activity, with India closely tracking developments in West Asia having implications for energy security and safety of Indian nationals.

Self-reliance takes centrestage at Army commanders' conference

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

SELF-RELIANCE in critical technologies and long-pending military theatre reforms came into sharp focus at the inaugural Army Commanders' Conference in the capital with Cabinet Secretary T V Somanathan on Tuesday pitching for sovereign artificial intelligence and resilient supply chains, a day after Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi underlined the need for greater tri-service synergy through theatre commands.

Addressing senior Army leadership, Somanathan said building sovereign AI capabilities was now a strategic necessity to reduce external dependencies and secure critical decision-making ecosystems in an increasingly contested global environment. He further stressed that resilient supply chains would be equally vital to ensure continuity of military and industrial operations during crises.

Calling for closer civil-military integration, the Cabinet Secretary emphasised that national security outcomes would depend on a "whole-of-nation" approach, with coordinated participation from government, industry and society. He described "Atmanirbharta" not merely as a policy objective but as a broader national mindset required to build long-term strategic resilience.

His remarks come amid growing emphasis within the security establishment on technological self-reliance, particularly in areas such as AI, semi conductors and unmanned aerial vehicles(UAVS).

A day earlier, Adm Tripathi had flagged the operational imperative of jointness, stressing that the evolving nature of warfare, marked by emerging technologies and multi-domain threats, required integrated responses from the Army, Navy and Air Force.

He highlighted the importance of securing Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs) to safeguard energy and trade flows, while reiterating the Navy's role in maintaining a forward presence across critical maritime spaces. The Navy Chief also said efforts towards theaterisation would be key to enhancing synergy among the three services, enabling more cohesive planning and execution in future conflicts.

Cabinet Secretary T V Somanathan addresses Army commanders in New Delhi | PTI

Govt steps in to protect Chambal river

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

THE Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife, under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, has directed that no hydro or irrigation projects, except related to drinking water if no alternatives available, will be considered until the environmental flows of the Chambal river improve.

This newspaper first reported that the reduction in the environmental flows of the Chambal has reduced water depth in the upper reaches, forcing dolphins to shift their hotspot downstream toward the confluence with the Yamuna river. Even lowering of water level during the lean season exposes nests, belonging to the endangered fauna at river islands, to threats from jackals, stray dogs, and cattle.

During the 90th meeting of the Standing Committee under the chairmanship of the Union Minister of MoEFCC, it was decided that till environmental flows are improved, no projects will be considered, said sources aware of the matter.

The committee was informed by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) that dolphin populations were observed to have shifted downstream compared to their past distribution in 2024. Moreover, during lean season, iconic species are only found in deep pools. The depth preferences of the species are at least above 3 metres, whereas sub-adult gharials prefer more than 4 metres, and muggers avoid shallow water.

After analysing the data of the Central Water Commission, the WII found that average flow at Dholpur during lean season (May–June) is around 25–50 m³/s. The minimum required environmental flow during the lean season for dolphins and associated fauna should be 369 m³/s to maintain 3 metre depth and an optimum of 849 m³/s for 5 metre depth.

"To enhance understanding of the river flows, the committee recommended widening the scope of the river flow study by involving the National Institute of Hydrology and other relevant agencies, including the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Limited and the Ministry of Jal Shakti," said an official aware of the developments at the standing committee meeting.

Finally, the committee has instructed the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) in Dehradun to undertake afforestation efforts along the Chambal river to enhance its flow. In another decision, the committee also directed the WII and Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management at ICFRE to prepare the Atlas of Grasslands of India, assess biodiversity associated with them and chalk out a future strategy.

The report, titled "Ecological Assessment of the Chambal River: Status of Major Aquatic Fauna and Flow Requirements," was submitted to the meeting of the standing committee on March 21.

- National Board for Wildlife put moratorium on any hydroproject on Chambal river till it restores environmental flows
- Record low flow of Chambal river during May–June pushed dolphins to shift downstream and endangering aquatic fauna habitats
- The Wildlife Institute of India analysed that during lean season is ~25–50 m³/s which is far below the required 369 m³/s
- The Committee has tasked the ICFRE with conducting afforestation efforts along the Chambal to enhance its flow
- The committee also directed the WII and ICFRE to prepare Atlas of Grasslands of India for better biodiversity management

Govt asks CWC to advise on continuous Chambal flows to protect dolphins

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @New Delhi

THE Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has instructed the Central Water Commission (CWC) to provide recommendations on how to sustain environmental flows in the Chambal River during the lean season that conserv-

Field data analysed

The WII's study analysed field data on the distribution of Ganges River dolphins, gharials (crocodilian species with long, thin snouts), and other important aquatic life, including turtles. It also assessed water depth, water quality, and seasonal river flow patterns, along with 10-day flow data from CWC

TNIE reported on March 23, 2026

'Justice must reach people efficiently, equitably'

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

COURTS can no longer remain confined within physical spaces or limited by geography, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant said on Tuesday while laying out an ambitious plan for the future of the Indian judiciary.

"The traditional model of justice, where citizens must approach courts physically, must give way to a system where justice reaches people efficiently and equitably," said the CJI, while delivering the 4th Ashok Desai Memorial Lecture on the theme 'Reimagining Justice: The Indian Judiciary 50 Years Hence'. "In a rapidly evolving society, the judiciary must adapt to ensure that access to justice is no longer dependent on location, resources, or procedural complexity," he said.

The CJI also highlighted that there should be a need for a justice delivery system that is accessible, responsive, and deeply integrated into the daily lives of citizens. "Justice is no longer something one must travel to seek but something that reaches individuals efficiently and equitably and with sensitivity to the realities of a changing society," he said. "The judiciary's long-term goal should be to build a system that, over the next five decades, becomes more accessible, transparent, and closely aligned with the needs of society," he added.

Highlighting that the future of justice delivery lies in reimagining institutional frameworks to eliminate barriers that traditionally hinder access, the CJI said that the nature of disputes before courts is set to become increasingly complex. "Judges of the future cannot remain confined to being mere interpreters of statutes and precedents but must develop a broader understanding of emerging fields," he said.

Highlighting that the movement towards a paperless system is already underway, the CJI said the future will demand far more than the digitisation of existing processes.

ALSO IN TOP COURT

SC to hear plea for disability-sensitive norms

The Supreme Court has sought responses from the Centre and the LIC on a plea seeking a direction to the LIC to frame and implement disability-sensitive guidelines for welfare insurance schemes. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta agreed to hear the plea which sought a direction to the Centre to exercise policy oversight to ensure that welfare insurance schemes for persons with disabilities are implemented in conformity with guarantees under Articles 14 and 21.

SC recommends two lawyers as Kerala HC judges

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court Collegium on Tuesday recommended the appointment of two lawyers as judges of the Kerala High Court. The recommended lawyers are Preeta Aravindan Krishnamma and Liz Mathew Anthraper. Mathew is a graduate of the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, and practises at the Supreme Court. It is notable that she has worked as a junior to former Supreme Court Judge Justice Indu Malhotra and former Attorney General K K Venugopal. She was designated a senior advocate in January 2024.

This recommendation has to be deliberated upon by the Centre which will decide and send its reply to the Collegium.

CBI raids 77 places in crackdown on builder-financial institution nexus

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conducted raids at 77 locations across eight States and Union Territories and registered 22 cases on Tuesday following directions from the Supreme Court to probe the alleged nexus between builders and financial institutions over alleged "subvention plans".

The cases relate to alleged collusion between certain builders and financial institution officials, resulting in cheating and defrauding homebuyers. The CBI has now registered 50 cases in the matter. Twenty-eight cases were filed last year against various real estate companies and financial institutions.

A CBI official said that extensive searches were conducted across multiple locations as part of a nationwide crackdown. The searches led to the seizure of documents, digital devices, and other materials, which are currently being examined. The agency said the action is aimed at collecting evidence to uncover a larger conspiracy involving diversion of funds, financial irregularities, and fraudulent practices in the housing real estate sector.

In April 2025, the Supreme Court directed the CBI to investigate after more than 170 petitions were filed by over 1,200 homebuyers. The petitioners alleged that banks had disbursed large loans to builders under subvention schemes before projects had begun. When developers defaulted, banks started demanding EMIs from the homebuyers.

Under subvention schemes, a tripartite agreement is signed between the buyer, the bank, and the developer. Buyers pay 5% to 20% upfront, while banks release the remaining loan amount to the developer in stages. The developer is supposed to pay the loan interest for a fixed period, until possession is given.

To uncover conspiracy

The searches led to the seizure of documents, digital devices, and other materials, which are currently being examined. The agency said the action is aimed at collecting proof to uncover a larger conspiracy involving diversion of funds and fraudulent practices in housing real estate sector.

CRIME

A dentist from Jamshedpur was allegedly raped by a man after being intoxicated at a birthday party in Jharkhand's Ranchi district, police said on Tuesday.

2 DEAD OF SUSPECTED DRUG OVERDOSE IN MUMBAI

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	41	26	Mumbai	33	27
Bhopal	38	23	Panaji	34	26
Jaipur	37	24	Patna	36	25
Amritsar	34	20	Lucknow	37	24
Chennai	35	27	Port Blair	31	26
Kolkata	34	26	Imphal	29	20
Srinagar	18	07	Chandigarh	35	22

Left Front won 60 of 68 seats in 2006, more than half went to TMC in 2011, further consolidation in 2016, again bipolar (TMC vs BJP) in 2021

Shift of SC votes: From Left to Didi and then BJP

VISMAY BASU @ New Delhi

THE current electoral map of constituencies reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) in West Bengal is widely dispersed yet politically convergent across key corridors. There are 68 SC-reserved Assembly seats, spanning northern districts to the silted expanses of the Sundarbans. The spread is extensive; the clustering is concentrated.

What demands attention is not merely the aggregate, but the patterning. Dense concentrations appear in North Bengal—Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, Uttar Dinajpur—and in the Matua-dominated tracts of North 24-Parganas and Nadia. These are not incidental cartographic outcomes. They are historically sedimented formations that map onto Rajbongshi and Namashudra settlement geographies shaped by colonial agrarian regimes and post-Partition movements. Geography is not passive; it is political memory.

Voting patterns in these seats have undergone huge transformations—rupture, consolidation, and rupture again.

In 2006, the Left Front's dominance in SC constituencies was complete—electoral, organisational and social. The rupture came in 2011. The Trinamool Congress did not merely gain seats; it absorbed an entire social base. Discontent over land acquisition, accumulated grievances against cadre dominance, and a desire for political dignity translated into a sweeping transfer of SC votes. The Left's collapse from 57 to 13 seats in SC constituencies was not incremental erosion; it was systemic dislocation.

By 2016, this shift consolidated into dominance. The TMC's near sweep of SC seats reflected the success of a different political idiom. Welfare schemes addressing education, mobility and rural livelihoods deepened the party's reach. The electorate did not just shift allegiance; it stabilised. For a moment, the field appeared settled.

It was not. The 2021 election marked another rupture, but of a different kind. Unlike 2011, which saw a transfer from one hegemonic bloc to another, 2021 produced fragmentation. The BJP emerged as a contender in SC constituencies, winning 32 seats. In North Bengal, particularly among Rajbongshis, identity-based mobilisation gained traction. In the Bangaon-Ranaghat belt, consolidation of the Matua vote—driven by anxieties around citizenship and the promise of legal recognition—shifted electoral behaviour.

The TMC retained a majority but no longer exercised monopoly. Across these four elections, what emerges is not a simple partisan shift but a reconfiguration of the underlying logic of mobilisation. The 2006 moment was anchored in class consolidation. The 2011 shift foregrounded political dignity and anti-incumbency. The 2016 phase reflected welfare-led stabilisation. The 2021 rupture brought identity—particularly caste-inflected and refugee-mediated identity—back to the centre of electoral politics.

This divergence complicates reductive readings. Caste in Bengal may not operate with the overt rigidity seen in North India—less declarative, less codified—but it does not disappear. It persists elliptically: subtle, yet consequential.

What emerges, then, is not a settled alignment but a densely intertwined field of forces. Class doesn't vanish; caste doesn't dissolve; identity doesn't operate in isolation. Each inflects the other—quietly, persistently.

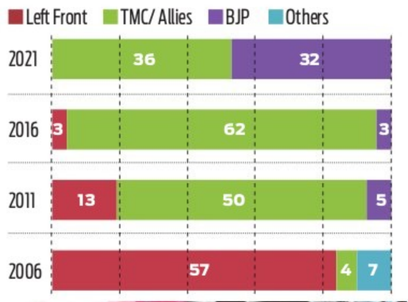
To understand why these alignments remain fluid, one must return to the longer trajectory of caste assertion in Bengal. The deeper grammar of this politics lies in the Namashudra movement. Its early phase, led by Harichand Thakur and Guruchand Thakur, foregrounded dignity, community consolidation, and social restructuring through a religious idiom that was both egalitarian and insurgent. This hardened into political assertion in the early 20th Century, as leaders began seeking institutional representation.

Within this conjuncture emerged Jogendra Nath Mandal, a Namashudra leader shaped by the Matua social world, who operated through strategic ties—mostly with All-India Muslim League. It was through this network of SC legislators in Bengal that B R Ambedkar, after failing to secure a seat from the Bombay Presidency, was elected to the Constituent Assembly in 1946. Bengal became the conduit for Ambedkar's entry into the constitutional project—a moment when regional caste politics acquired national consequence.

District-wise Spread of SC Seats

Region	Key SC Seats	Dominant Groups	Strength
Cooch Behar & Alipurduar	Mekliganj, Mathabhanga, Sitalkuchi, Sitai	Rajbongshi, Koch	TMC: Moderate BJP: Strong
Jalpaiguri belt	Dhupguri, Maynaguri, Rajganj	Rajbongshi, migrant SC groups	TMC: Moderate BJP: Strong
Uttar & Dakshin Dinajpur	Hemtabad, Kaliaganj, Kushmandi	Mixed agrarian SC communities	Competitive for both
Nadia	Krishnaganj, Ranaghat Dakshin, Haringhata	Namashudra (Matua)	Competitive for both
North 24 Parganas	Bagda, Bangaon Uttar/ Dakshin, Gaighata	Matua (refugee-origin)	Competitive for both
M'bad & Malda	Nabagram, Gazole	Heterogeneous	TMC: strong
South 24 Parganas	Basanti, Gosaba	Namashudra, Malo, Poundra	TMC: strong

Electoral Arc: From Hegemony to Contestation



'PEOPLE OF BENGAL WILL MARRY ONCE, NOT MORE'

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

HOME Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday claimed that "love jihad" and "land jihad" would be stopped in the state if the BJP comes to power, adding that "people would marry once, not four times". He addressed three poll rallies—in Gangarampur in South Dinajpur, Manikchak and Gazole in Malda district—launching attacks on the Trinamool Congress government.

The ongoing face-off between the TMC and its main challenger, the BJP, intensified as Shah said, "Don't worry, we will implement Uniform Civil Code (UCC) after formation of the BJP government. With implementation of UCC, love jihad and land jihad will end in the state. People of Bengal will marry once, not more. Someone will marry four times, while others will marry only once. You (crowd) tell me, is it justified? It cannot go on."

He pledged to protect women's rights, secure borders and eliminate illegal land seizures. He made scathing attacks on TMC, accusing it of promoting corruption, scams, lawlessness, appeasement politics, infiltration for vote-bank, atrocities against women and poor governance during its rule.

Shah also slammed Aam Janata Unnayan Party leader Humayun Kabir for his initiative to build a mosque in Murshidabad district's Beldanga, modelled after the Babri Masjid of Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh. "Babar had demolished Ram temple in Ayodhya and Modiji has built the Ram temple there. No one can build Babri Masjid on the soil of Bengal."

In Malda, Shah said, "The EC would not spare TMC goons this time. It has taken all measures to ensure elections without violence. I warn TMC goons to stay inside their homes on April 23, else we will pick them up on May 4 and put them behind bars."

TMC paving the way for BJP to win Bengal: Rahul

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday launched fierce attacks on the ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal and the opposition BJP, accusing them of destroying industries in the state. The Congress leader on Tuesday kicked off his first election campaign in poll-bound state, targeting both parties at election rallies in Raiganj, North Dinajpur, and Malda districts, once a stronghold of his party in the state.

After 2006, Congress contested assembly elections for the first time alone without aligning with any anti-BJP party. Previously, Congress had contested both Lok Sabha and assembly elections in alliance with either TMC or the Left.

Gandhi alleged that the ruling party in Bengal is paving the way for the saffron camp to strengthen its organisational network in the state despite the BJP-led Centre withholding funds for different schemes.

"The BJP government did not give ₹2 lakh crore to Bengal and slashed funds allotted for MGNREGA. It has also not given any projects for the state in the Central budget," he said.

"Trinamool is paving the way for BJP in Bengal, though the latter unleashes politics of violence and hatred in the state and the country. The BJP would have been hardly visible in Bengal if the ruling party did its work like generating jobs and preventing violence."

MUMBAI DIARY

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI
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Chennithala may return to Kerala if UDF wins

After delivering a satisfactory performance for the party in the state, Maharashtra Congress in-charge Ramesh Chennithala is expected to return to the head role in his own state, Kerala, if the Congress-led front comes back to power. Chennithala is the senior-most leader of the Congress and a proven administrator. He is very much in the race for the chief minister of Kerala along with Congress general secretary KV Venugopal, who is touted as close to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, while Chennithala is a confident trustee of Sonia Gandhi. It will be interesting to see who wins, mother or son, when it comes to choosing the key decisions for the party's future.

Uddhav keeps team together, fears poaching

After the report of Maharashtra deputy chief minister Eknath Shinde's Operation Tiger, Uddhav Thackeray has shaken and started meeting his own Lok Sabha MPs one after another and trying to understand their psyche, whether they really want to leave the party and join the Shinde Sena. Thackeray reminded these MPs of their commitment to the party and the Thackeray family and asked them to stick to the promise that was given during the ticket distribution for the Lok Sabha election. Thackeray is trying and putting every effort to keep his flock together at the critical juncture because his party is not in a position to absorb another blow.

Cong social media posts in spotlight

State Congress's social media handle was very much in discussion for its quick and crisp posts in addition to its funny and sarcastic replies that bewilder several ruling party people. It was revealed that the party has some young, talented volunteers who are committed to the party's secular and progressive ideology, and these youths are handling the party's affairs effectively and giving the party name, fame, and buzz even though the party is in a decimated position and trying to rekindle itself in the crowded, competitive political market.

JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar greets Samrat Choudhary on Tuesday | PTI

SAMRAT CHOUDHARY

New Bihar CM rose through the ranks, proved his mettle

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

TUESDAY marked a historic moment in Bihar politics. For the first time after being in a coalition government for over two decades, the BJP secured the chief minister's post, handing over Nitish Kumar's baton to Samrat Choudhary.

Choudhary, who served as deputy chief minister and held the crucial home portfolio in the previous Nitish Kumar cabinet, was chosen by the BJP's top leadership to replace Kumar. He is currently an MLA from the Tarapur constituency in Munger district, a seat once represented by both his father and mother.

Born on November 16, 1968, in Lakhanpur village near Tarapur, he completed his primary education locally and later pursued higher studies at Madurai Kamaraj University. His father, Shakuni Choudhary, was a six-time MLA and MP, while his mother, Parvati Devi, was also an MLA from Tarapur.

He entered politics in 1990 and quickly rose through the ranks. In May 1999, he became the agriculture minister in Rabri Devi's government. Over the years, he was elected as an MLA from the Parbatta constituency in 2000 and 2010. In 2010, he took on the role of the opposition's chief whip in the Bihar Assembly.

His political journey saw several shifts. Initially associated with RJD and JD(U), Choudhary made a move in 2014 by planning a split in RJD, defecting 13 MLAs to form a splinter group. He later joined JD(U) and served as a minister in the government headed by Jitan Ram Manjhi. In 2015, he was also a founding member of the Hindustani Awam Morcha.

He joined the BJP in 2017, a turning point in his political journey. In March 2023, he was appointed BJP state president.

During the Mahagathbandhan government, he symbolically wore a turban as a vow to remove Nitish from the chief minister's post. He removed the turban in July 2024 after Nitish returned to the NDA.

Was home minister

After the NDA's huge victory in the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections, Samrat Choudhary returned as deputy chief minister and was also given the home portfolio, signalling his growing stature.

PM opens Del-Dehradun eco corridor

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

EMPHASISING the Centre's commitment to transforming the nation's infrastructure, PM Narendra Modi on Tuesday inaugurated the 210-km Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor here after a 12-km roadshow.

Addressing the gathering at the Jaswant Singh Army Ground, Modi called the infrastructure expansion not just a matter of connectivity, but the creation of "destiny lines" for the nation. "As people consult astrology to understand their future through the lines on their palms, roads, railways, ropeways, and waterways are becoming the destiny lines of our nation," the PM said. He asserted that these projects form the bedrock of the 'Viksit Bharat' vision and serve as a guarantee for the prosperity of future generations.

Lauding Uttarakhand's rapid growth in its 26th year, Modi said the new corridor would boost the state's trajectory. Recalling his Kedarnath prophecy that this decade belongs to Uttarakhand, he credited "double-engine" policies and hard work for realising that vision.

In a speech that avoided mention of the Congress, the PM began by greeting the crowd in Garhwali and Kumaoni. Reflecting on the constitutional milestones of the last decade, the PM highlighted the integration of the nation under a unified legal framework. "With the abrogation of Article 370 in Kashmir and the eradication of Maoism, India's Constitution is now enforced across the length and breadth of the country," he declared. He praised Uttarakhand for setting a national precedent by implementing the Uniform Civil Code, aligning with the spirit of the Constitution. Modi paid tributes to B R Ambedkar, emphasising that his government remains dedicated to ensuring social justice for the poor.

He highlighted the government's push for infrastructure, noting that while national expenditure on infrastructure projects struggled to touch ₹2 lakh crore before 2014, it has now surged six-fold, exceeding ₹12 lakh crore. Uttarakhand is currently seeing development projects worth ₹2.25 lakh crore. Modi said projects like the Char Dham Mahamarg Pariyojana are rewriting Uttarakhand's future.

PM Modi holds a roadshow, in Saharanpur, UP, while en route to Dehradun | PTI

Infra funds surged six-fold since 2014, says Modi

The PM highlighted the govt's push for infrastructure, noting that while national expenditure on infrastructure projects struggled to touch ₹2 lakh crore before 2014, it has now surged six-fold, exceeding ₹12 lakh crore. Uttarakhand is seeing development projects worth ₹2.25 lakh crore.

Draft DGCA rules tighten regulations for co-pilots

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

IN a bid to ensure passenger safety, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has tightened the norms for crew training as well as qualification for planes operated by scheduled airlines.

According to the revised draft norms, the pilot-in-command (PIC) or co-pilot cannot operate flight controls during take-off and landing unless he or she has done at least three take-offs and landings in the past 90 days on the same type of aircraft or flight simulator approved for the purpose.

The proposed rule changes refer to all aircraft weighing over 5,700 kg. An official said, "This covers all regular passenger flights as well as the larger aircraft we see used for regular operations by all scheduled airlines. It leaves out the smaller aircraft which are lighter."

The new rules reiterate the need for intensive periodic training for all crew members.

DGCA will accept responses to the draft till May 3 and then notify the final rules.

The draft also lays down stringent norms for cruise relief pilot (the one who takes over the flying duties in long-haul flights to ensure the captain or co-pilot gets some rest).

"A pilot is not assigned to act in the capacity of cruise relief pilot in a type or variant of a type of aeroplane unless within the preceding 90 days that pilot has either operated as a PIC, co-pilot or cruise relief pilot on the same type of aeroplane or carried out flying skill refresher training," it states.

Additionally, a pilot taking on a Zero Flight Time Training (ZFTT) course needs to fulfil a specific number of landings and take-offs before operating a plane.

EXPRESS READ

Money flows as Gujarat local polls turn murky

Ahmedabad: After a string of uncontested BJP wins, the Congress in Gujarat has shifted over 100 candidates to a secret location to prevent poaching in the run-up to local body elections. The elections for 15 municipal corporations, 34 district panchayats, 84 municipalities, and 260 taluka panchayats have entered a decisive phase. With the April 15 deadline to withdraw nominations approaching, the Congress camp has slipped into defensive overdrive, fearing large-scale horse-trading. Many nominees have switched off phones and have moved to undisclosed locations. Congress chief Amit Chavda, who has launched a blistering attack, alleged that BJP leaders are offering Rs 20–30 lakh deals to poach Congress candidates. "This is not an election; this is a marketplace," he charged. He also said that law enforcement officials are visiting homes of Congress candidates to intimidate them. **ENS**

Boiler blast kills 10 at Vedanta plant in C'garh

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

A massive explosion at the Vedanta Limited power plant killed at least 10 workers and left over 25 others injured at Singhitarai in Sakti district, about 180 km east of Raipur, on Tuesday. The disaster occurred when a boiler at the power plant burst during peak operational hours.

The explosion was so intense that several workers were trapped under the debris of the collapsed structure. Local authorities and emergency services rushed to the scene to initiate rescue operations. According to eyewitnesses, the sudden blast created chaos as workers scrambled for safety through thick smoke and dust.

Of the injured, several are reported to be in critical condition, officials said. They have been shifted to nearby hospitals, with more serious cases referred to medical facilities in Bilaspur and Raipur.

CM Vishnu Deo Sai addressed concerns over industrial safety and possible negligence in safety protocols, directing a thorough investigation. "The news of the death and injury of workers in this accident is deeply disturbing. A thorough and impartial investigation into the incident will be ensured," the chief minister said. "Strict action will be taken against anyone found guilty of negligence."

Rescue teams are continuing to clear the rubble to ensure no workers remain trapped. While the exact cause of the boiler failure is yet to be determined, initial suspicions point to technical malfunctions, pressure build-up in the boiler, or a breach of safety protocols.

250 people feared missing after boat capsizes in Andaman Sea

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	21	1	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	28	24	SNY	Melbourne	26	15	LC
Dhaka	31	19	SNY	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	21	SNY	New York	7	2	SNY
Houston	31	19	TDS	Singapore	28	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	1	-5	SNY
London	13	9	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

Ships from Iranian ports cross Hormuz, test blockade

WITH DIPLOMACY UNDERWAY, MILITARY ACTIVITY INTENSIFIES AND ECONOMIC PRESSURES BUILD

LONDON

At least two ships sailing from Iranian ports crossed the Hormuz Strait on Monday despite a US military blockade, maritime tracking data indicated Tuesday. They were among at least four Iran-linked vessels that used the route after Washington's blockade came into effect at 1400 GMT on Monday, according to maritime data provider Kpler.

The Liberia-flagged bulk carrier Christianna crossed after unloading 74,000 tonnes of corn at the Iranian port of Bandar Imam Khomeini, passing Iran's Larak Island in the strait around 1600 GMT on Monday, Kpler data showed.

A second ship, the Comoros-flagged tanker Elpis, was near Larak Island around 1100 GMT and cleared the strait about 1600 GMT. US Central Command had said the blockade would target "vessels of all nations entering or departing Iranian ports and coastal areas".

A Chinese tanker, the Rich Starry, also crossed the strait overnight from Monday to Tuesday via the Iranian-approved vetting route south of Larak Island. Media including leading shipping journal *Lloyd's List* interpreted the Chinese ship's passage as a "test" of US President Donald Trump's blockade.

US Vice President JD Vance | AFP

WAR WATCH

Vance says ball in Iran's court

US Vice President J D Vance said Iran has moved in the direction of the US during the peace talks in Islamabad to end the war and it was for Tehran to make the next move on taking the discussions forward.

"I wouldn't just say that things went wrong. I also think things went right. We made a lot of progress," Vance told *Fox News*. "They moved in our direction, which is why I think we would say that we had some good signs, but they didn't move far enough," said the US vice president, who led the delegation comprising Special Envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, for the talks with the Iranian delegation.

Pak plans new US-Iran talks

Pakistani officials said Tuesday that Islamabad has proposed a second round of talks to the US and Iran, while Donald Trump said on Monday that they will meet in Islamabad "over the next two days" "we've been called by the other side" and "they want to work a deal."

IMF cuts growth outlook

The war has stalled global economic momentum, the IMF said Tuesday, cutting its 2026 growth forecast to 3.1% from 3.4% last year.

US, allies launch drills

Over 17,000 US and Filipino troops will join Balikatan exercises in the Philippines from April 20 to May 8, highlighting Washington's Asia commitment. Japan, France and Canada will also take part, including a missile drill. The drills come amid South China Sea tensions, with China opposing them. *AFP/AP*

Hezbollah rejects talks; Israel blames group

BEIRUT: Hezbollah said it will not be bound by outcomes of Lebanon-Israel talks in Washington, opposing the first direct meeting in decades. "We are not bound by what they agree to," a senior official said beside a cemetery as an Israeli drone buzzed overhead. Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Saar pushed to dismantle Hezbollah, calling it unlawful and backed by Iran, urging wider cooperation.

Meloni suspends Israel defence pact

Italy: Italy has suspended the automatic renewal of a defence agreement with Israel, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said Tuesday, citing the current situation. Rome has condemned Israel's bombing campaign in Lebanon, which has struck civilians and an Italian UN peacekeeping convoy. The 2005 pact covers defence cooperation and is renewed every five years. The move reflects growing concern over the conflict's impact wider.

Red Cross sends first aid shipment to Iran

Geneva: The Red Cross said its first aid shipment since the war entered Iran, delivering life-saving medical supplies. The convoy from Ankara included trauma kits amid disrupted supply chains. Separately, the ICRC sent 171 tonnes of relief via 14 trucks from Jordan, including essentials for 25,000 people. More aid is planned as humanitarian needs rise and local relief teams face mounting strain.

Smoke rises behind palm trees and a McDonald's 'Golden Arches' logo from the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted the Al-Hosh area near the coastal Lebanese city of Tyre. Lebanese officials want a ceasefire, while Israeli officials have said they are not interested in a ceasefire but want the talks to focus on disarming Hezbollah as an essential step toward a potential peace deal between the two countries | AFP

Ukraine, Germany sign defence deal to boost drone cooperation

BERLIN

THE leaders of Ukraine and Germany on Tuesday announced a strategic partnership centred on defence as Europe seeks to learn from Ukrainian battlefield expertise, especially in drone warfare.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy led a government delegation to Berlin, where they met Chancellor Friedrich Merz and key ministers to discuss Ukraine's war against Russia, now in its fifth year. Europe's top economy has become Ukraine's biggest military backer as the United States under President Donald Trump has scaled back support. But Germany, eager to build up its armed forces to deter Russia, is also looking to tap Kyiv's expertise in rapidly evolving drone technology.

The two countries pledged to "strengthen cooperation in the air defence field" and Germany said it would "continue supporting Ukraine's drone industry as well as establishing drone co-production ventures".

The German defence ministry said it had agreed to fund contracts for several hundred Patriot missiles from US defence giant Raytheon as well as Iris-T air defence launchers from German manufacturer Diehl. Ukrainian Defence Minister Mykhailo Fedorov on X thanked his German counterpart Boris Pistorius for the package, which he said was worth $4.7 billion, calling it "a massive boost for our air defence... to protect our cities and critical infrastructure".

Merz backs Lebanon talks, Hezbollah disarmament

Meanwhile, Friedrich Merz told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu he backs direct Israel-Lebanon talks starting Tuesday in Washington. He urged an end to hostilities in southern Lebanon and said Hezbollah must lay down its arms, the German chancellery said Monday night. *AP*

Ex-student opens fire in Turkey school, 16 injured

ANKARA

A former student opened fire at a high school in south-eastern Turkey on Tuesday, wounding at least 16 people, before killing himself, an official said.

The 18-year-old attacker, armed with a shotgun, fired randomly inside a vocational high school in Siverek, Sanliurfa province. He later killed himself with the same shotgun after being "cornered by police," Governor Hasan Sildak said.

The attack left 10 students, four teachers, a canteen employee and a police officer hurt, Sildak said. While most of them were being treated in Siverek, five of the teachers and students were transferred to a hospital in the provincial capital because their conditions were more serious, the governor said.

The motive for the attack remains unclear. School shootings are rare in Turkey.

The attacker did not have a criminal record, Sildak said. The school had been declared safe and no permanent police officer was assigned to protect it, he added, calling the shooting an "isolated incident."

NTV television and other media reports said the assailant had threatened an attack on the school on social media prior to the shooting. One student told the state-run Anadolu Agency that he and a friend jumped out of their classroom window to flee the attacker. "He suddenly entered the classroom and fired. He fired four or five times. Two people were hit. He then went into the next classroom," Anadolu quoted Omer Furkan Sayar as saying. "We first threw ourselves to the ground and then two of us jumped out of the window."

Sayar continued: "He didn't say anything, he entered and started to shoot directly." *AP*

EXPRESS READ

UN: 700 killed in Sudan drone strikes this yr

GENEVA: Nearly 700 civilians have been killed in drone strikes in Sudan since January, the UN said, as the civil war enters its fourth year. The conflict has killed thousands, displaced 11 million and pushed regions toward famine. Drones are driving casualties, including children, while 19 million face acute hunger. The UN warns of a worsening humanitarian crisis and severe funding gaps.

Trump admin pushes Warsh for Fed chair

WASHINGTON: The Trump administration wants Kevin Warsh installed as US Federal Reserve chair as soon as possible, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said. Warsh's confirmation faces hurdles, with Senator Thom Tillis opposing it amid a Justice Department probe into Fed renovation costs. Jerome Powell's term ends in May. Bessent expressed confidence Warsh will be confirmed despite political tensions and pressure on the central bank.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE No. 42 to 47 _ DRM_W_HYB_26 dt. 10/04/2026 PUB/037

On behalf of the President of India, Divisional Railway Manager/Works, Hyderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad invites Open Tenders for the following works through **e-procurement** up to 15.00 hours of **04/05/2026.**

Tender No. 42_DRM_W_HYB_26 **Name of the work** SC-MUE section: UPPALVAI Ballast Depot:: Supplying and stacking of 50mm gauge hard and durable machine crushed stone ballast to railway's specifications at UPPALVAI Depot (Depot Collection) and loading the same in to railway hoppers / traffic ballast wagons by mechanical means (81200 Cu.M). **Approx Value Rs.** 9,05,12,016 **EMD Rs.** 18,10,300

Tender No. 43_DRM_W_HYB_26 **Name of the work** A. Construction of boundary wall at Nizamabad Station and approaches under the jurisdiction of ADEN/NZB. B. HYB Div: Provision of Merchant room at DHP C. Proposed substation building HT/LT Strengthening at Kamareddi as part of Amrit Bharat Scheme. (Civil works) **Approx Value Rs.** 5,27,35,457 **EMD Rs.** 10,54,700

Tender No. 44_DRM_W_HYB_26 **Name of the work** Hyderabad Division: 1) Construction of Indoor Volley Ball Court at RSC/SC under SSE/Works/NLGD jurisdiction 2) Proposed Construction of new GYM with the PEB structure at RSC/SC under SSE/Works/NLGD jurisdiction 3) Repairs to ground floor, renovation of toilets in first floor room, demolition of kitchen area and construction of new hostel building in Annapurna hostel at RRC ground under the jurisdiction of SSE/W/NLGD **Approx Value Rs.** 6,33,52,025 **EMD Rs.** 12,67,100

Tender No. 45_DRM_W_HYB_26 **Name of the work** A) Hyderabad Division: SC -MUE section - Rebuilding of Existing Br No 735 as 1x3.0x2.0M RCC Box (By Air Pushing method) at Km 608/11-13 due to Inadequate water way between MJF - BMO stations. B) Proposed Construction of new Bridge at Rly Km 550/500-600 for crossing of Shankarampet branch canal between MZL-WDR Stations.(Pushing of already casted RCC Box and balance RCC Box Cast-in-situ and other miscellaneous works). **Approx Value Rs.** 1,61,85,166 **EMD Rs.** 3,23,700

Tender No. 46_DRM_W_HYB_26 **Name of the work** (A)HYB Division:- SC-DHNE Section: Extension of existing FOB at Thimmapur Railway Station. (B) HYB Division:- SC-DHNE Section: Proposed Construction of New FOB at Yakutpura Railway Station (4M Wide FOB). **Approx Value Rs.** 4,92,88,471 **EMD Rs.** 9,85,800

Tender No. 47_DRM_W_HYB_26 **Name of the work** Secunderabad - Dhone Section: In-Situ Welding of 60 kg rail joints at various locations between Secunderabad and Dhone Stations. **Approx Value Rs.** 50,26,075 **EMD Rs.** 1,00,500

For further details visit the website www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager/ Works, Hyderabad
A049

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

THE MALLESWARAM CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.,
H. O : # 102, 7th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore - 560 003, Ph- 080-23342713/ 23342323, E- Mail : mcb_mall@yahoo.com, Website : www.mcbl.in

CORRIGENDUM

In reference to the e-auction Sale Notice published on **14.04.2026** in this news paper pertaining to the Borrower: **Mr. Krishna D L** S/o Late Lakshmansa D S and Others. In this notice, the date and time of E-Auction is **26.04.2026 from 10.00 am - 11.00 am** Please read this as the date and time of E-Auction is **29.04.2026 from 10.00 am - 11.00 am** All other contents remains unchanged.

Date : 14.04.2026 Place: Bangalore
Sd/- Authorised Officer The Malleswaram Co-Operative Bank Ltd.,

IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF THE XLV ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-45)
G & WC No. 15/2026

BETWEEN: Master Viraat V.J,
S/o Vineeth Kumar M.G, Aged about 09 years, Residing at Door No. 43, 1st Floor, 3rd 'B' Cross, 2nd Stage, Sathyanarayana Layout, 2nd Stage, Mahalakshmipuram, Bengaluru 560 086
Since minor represented by his Father being the Natural Guardian, **Sri. Vineeth Kumar M.G,** Aged about 37 years Residing at Door No. 43, 1st Floor, 3rd 'B' Cross, 2nd Stage, Sathyanarayana Layout, 2nd Stage, Mahalakshmipuram, Bengaluru 560 086. **...PETITIONER**
AND: NILL ...RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, the petitioner has filed the above petition u/s 8 of Hindu Minority And Guardianship Act, 1956. Issue permission/leave in favour of the father of the Petitioner so as to pledge/mortgage the schedule property with the concerned Bank and obtain necessary sanction for loan and utilize the same for the purposes of present and further educational purposes and other prospects of the Petitioner by imposing necessary conditions/restrictions so deem fit considering the facts and circumstances of the case and grant such other reliefs as the Hon'ble Court deems fit to pass under the facts and circumstances of the case, in the interest of justice and equity

Interested parties are hereby called upon to file objection to the claim of the petitioners, if any person or persons/any company/any firm or any other third parties having right in respect to schedule property, you are hereby summoned to appear in person or by pleader on **09.06.2026 at 11:00 a.m.** at CCH-45 XLV Addl. City Civil And Session Judge At Bengaluru to answer the same, failing which petition will be disposed off Ex-parte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY/PREMISES

All that piece and parcel of site bearing No. 43 in the layout formed by Sree Sathyanarayana Gruha Nirmana Sangha, Bengaluru in the land bearing Sy. No. 169/1-2, 171, 172/1 and 173/1-2 situated at Laggere, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, BBMP Old Ward No. 13, New No. 68, Bengaluru North Taluk. Measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South 43+45/2 in total 1320 sq. ft., in which 50% share is allotted to the petitioner as per the Gift Deed and bounded on:

East by: Site No. 42, **West by:** Site No. 44
North by: Road, **South by:** Site No. 26
Given under my hand & seal of the Court, this 2nd day of April 2026.

By Order of the Court, Senior Shirastedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Address of the Petitioner's Counsel
Sri D.S. Jayaraj,
M/s Jayaraj and Associates,
No.22/G8, Krishna Towers, 3rd Main, Gandhinagar, Bangalore 560009

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - 2 AT BENGALURU
BSNL Building (Fourth Floor) Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001
O.A. NO. 412/2023
BETWEEN: Deutsche Bank A.G., Raheja Towers, Ground, Floor, 26-27, MG Road, Bangalore - 560001 Rep. by its Manager Debt - Management and Power of Attorney holder, Mr. Ajay Singh T.S.,..... Applicants
and
M/s. Intellifour Software Pvt Ltd., and Others ...Defendents

Summons Issued To Defendants Under Rule 23 (viii) Of The Debts Recovery Tribunal (procedure) Rules 1993 By Paper Publication

TO,D-1. 1). M/s. Intellifour Software Pvt Ltd., Represented by its Directors,No.02, Kushal Emerald North Park Road, Kumara Park East, Bangalore – 560001.CIN: U72900KA2014PTC074676 PAN : AADCI5571J PHONE : 08040954153 Mail ID : suhas@intellifour.com **D-2. 2).** Mr. Suhas Gopal Bhat., S/o. Gopal Govind Bhat.,Aged about 50 years, Director M/s. Intellifour Software Pvt Ltd., No.02, Kushal Emerald North Park Road, Kumara Park East, Bangalore – 560001PAN : AERPB9496A Mob : 9980128402 Mail ID: suhas@intellifour.com. **Also at** Mr. Suhas Gopal Bhat.,Director M/s. Intellifour Software Pvt Ltd., No.762 IDHA, 7th A Main Road, NTI Layout 2nd Phase, Rajivgandhi Nagar, Vidyaranya Pura Post, Vidyaranya Pura,Bangalore - 560097. **D-3. 3).** Mrs. Soujanya Aluri.,W/o. Mr. Satish JAged about 49 years, Director M/s. Intellifour Software Pvt Ltd.,No.02 Kushal Emerald North Park Road, Kumara Park East,Bangalore - 560001 PAN : AFPPA9441P Mob: 9832700883 Mail ID : hr@intellifour.com Also at Mrs. Soujanya Aluri.,No.813, A Sector, 3rd Phase,Yelahanka New Town,Near Sheshadripuram College,Bangalore – 560064.**D-4. 4).** Mr. Satish Jayarama Reddy.,S/o. Jayarama Reddy, Aged about 50 years,DirectorM/s. Intellifour Software Pvt Ltd.,No.406, Shivaprukruti Apartment,Talakaveri Layout, Byatarayanapura,Bangalore – 560092.Mob: 08040954153. Mail ID : hr@intellifour.com.

Whereas the applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against the Defendant for recovery of sum of **Rs.31,44,899.21 (Rupees Thirty-One Lakh Forty-Four Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Nine and Paise Twenty-One Only)** together with current and future interest and for other reliefs.

The above-mentioned defendant is therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an advocate, in support of his defense to show cause on **22/06/2026** at **10:30 A.M.** (Forenoon) as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given Under My Hand And The Seal Of This Tribunal On This The **12 Day Of March 2026.**

By order of Tribunal, Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - 2 AT BENGALURU
BSNL Building (Fourth Floor) Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001
O.A. NO. 416/2023
BETWEEN: Deutsche Bank A.G., Raheja Towers, Ground, Floor, 26-27, MG Road, Bangalore - 560001 Rep. by its Manager Debt - Management and Power of Attorney holder, Mr. Ajay Singh T.S.,..... Applicants
and
M/s. M.S. Marketing Enterprises Private Limited., and Others., ...Defendents

Summons Issued To Defendants Under Rule 23 (viii) Of The Debts Recovery Tribunal (procedure) Rules 1993 By Paper Publication

TO,D-1. 1. M/s. M.S. Marketing Enterprises Private Limited. represented by its Directors, No.21, 3rd Floor, Kumara Krupa Road, Opp Hotel Solitaire, Bangalore - 560001. CIN : U26914KA2003PTC032313. PAN: AADCM8037B, Phone : 08042660000. mail id : msraccounts@msgroup.in. **D2. 2.** Mr. Anil K Mehra., S/o. Vimla Kranti Mehra, aged about 62 years, Director, M/s. M.S. Marketing Enterprises Private Limited., No.21, 3rd Floor, Kumara Krupa Road, Opp Hotel Solitaire, Bangalore - 560001. PAN: ABTPM6490L, Mob : 9845016485. Mail Id : msraccounts@msgroup.in. **Also at.** Mr. Anil K Mehra., D 102, No. 4 and 4/1, 10th A Main Road, 15th Cross, Malleshwaram West Bangalore - 560055. **Also at** Mr. Anil K Mehra., No. 4/102, 10th A Main Road, 15th Cross, Opp: to MIA Primary School, Malleshwaram West Bangalore - 560055. **D3 .3)** Mr. Shravan A Mehra., S/o Mr. Anil K Mehra., aged about 38 years, Director, M/s. M.S. Marketing Enterprises Private Limited., No. 21, 3rd Floor, Kumara Krupa Road, Opp Hotel Solitaire, Bangalore - 560001. PAN: ALRPM8923E, Mob: 9844480000. Mail id: msraccounts@msgroup.in. Also at: Mr. Shravan A Mehra., No. 4, Lehnert D-102, 10th A Main Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore - 560055.

Whereas the applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against the Defendant for recovery of sum of **Rs.40,47,104.93 (Rupees Forty Lakh Forty -Seven Thousand One Hundred Four and Paise Ninety Three Only)** together with current and future interest and for other reliefs.

The above-mentioned defendant is therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an advocate, in support of his defense to show cause on **22/06/2026** at **10:30 A.M.** (Forenoon) as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given Under My Hand And The Seal Of This Tribunal On This The **12 Day Of March 2026.**

By order of Tribunal, Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore

kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank

NOTICE

To
Sitansu Behura
House List No. 1 Katha No. 908/14G Thimmapa Reddy Extension,Hulimavu, Village Begur, Bangalore, Karnataka, Pin Code - 560068

E.C. No. 221 OF 2021
IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA
ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION
ORIGINAL SIDE

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. .....Petitioner/Award Holder
-Versus-
Sitansu Behura ....Respondents/Judgment Debtors

Please note that by an order dated 29th September, 2021, you had been directed to file your individual affidavit of assets before the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta. Inspite of such order, you have not complied with the order. Please note that the matter was taken up on 20th December, 2024, 4th December, 2025 and 7th April, 2026 and the matter is now made returnable on 19th May, 2026 when you are required to file your affidavit of assets as per Form 16A Appendix E of the Code of Civil Procedure 1908.

SINHA AND COMPANY (ADVOCATES)
5, KIRAN SHANKAR ROY ROAD, KOLKATA- 700001.
CON: +9133-2210-1617/1625

RELIGARE Values that bind

RELIGARE FINVEST LTD
CIN:U74999DL1995PLC064132
Regd. Office : "First Floor, Office No. 101, 2E/23, Jhandewalan Extn. New Delhi-110055
Corporate office : 7th Floor, Max House, Block A, Dr.Jha Marg, Okhla Phase III, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi - 110 020
BRANCH OFFICE: No.421/G, 1st Floor, 1st Main Road, 1st Stage, Indiranagar, Krishna Temple Road, Opposite to SBI Branch, Bengaluru-Karnataka-560038.

APPENDIX-IV-A [See proviso to Rule 8(6) & proviso to Rule 9(1)]

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provisos to Rule 8(6) & 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/Mortgager(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor i.e. **M/s Religare Finvest Ltd.** (in short 'RFL'), the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of RFL, will be sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS" and "NO RECOURSE"** basis through E-Auction. The E - Auction shall be conducted only through **"Online Electronic Bidding" through website https://www.bankeauctions.com/ on 08.05.2026 from 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.** with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes duration each for recovery of **₹1,92,28,226.81** (Rupees One Crore Ninety Two Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Six and Eighty One Paise Only) **as on 13.04.2026** along with up to date, interest, costs and charges due to the RFL from the Borrower(s) /Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s) namely, **(1) M/s.Maruthi Enterprises through its Proprietor, 2) Mrs.Swetha Devaraj M and 3) Mr.Devaraju M**

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Survey No.74/3, **Thanisandara Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore Karnataka** Presently comes under Jurisdiction of BBMP and bounded as follows East By: - Thayappa's Property, West By: - Bachanna Navara Muniyappa's Property, North By:- Ramesh Property, South By: - Muniraja Property, Measuring **Totally 4 ¼ Guntas.**

The Reserve Price will be **₹ 1,10,28,402/-**
and the **Earnest Money Deposit** will be **₹ 11,02,840/-**

Date & Time of Auction: 08.05.2026
From 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.
Portal of E-Auction: https://www.bankeauctions.com/

Known Encumbrances
RFL is not aware of any encumbrances on the secured asset to be sold. Interested parties should make their own assessment of the secured asset to their satisfaction. Secured Creditor (RFL) does not in any way guarantee or makes any representation with regard to the fitness/title of the aforesaid secured asset.. Secured Creditor (RFL) does not in any way guarantee or makes any representation with regard to the fitness/title of the aforesaid secured asset.

Other Details of Sale:

1. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on Secured Creditor's website i.e., **https://uat-religarefinvests.webflow.io/auction-notices**
2. For details about E-Auction, the intending bidders may contact **M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd through Mr.Dharani Krishna - Tel. No.: +91 72919 71124,25,26** and **Mobile +91-99481 82222; email id – andhra@c1india.com.**
3. The interested parties may contact the following **Authorized Officer Mr. Ansar B S on his Mobile: 89290 24427 and Mr. A.Wilson Mobile: 93110 56699** for further details/ clarifications and for submitting their application/Bid.

Date : 15.04.2026 **Authorized Officer**
Place: Bangalore **M/s.Religare Finvest Limited**

TELANGANA CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING FEDERATION LTD.
Email: proc.tsmarkfed2018@gmail.com, Ph.No: 040-2460 7108, Fax: 040-2460 7100

Rc.No.586/P&M/Disposal of Maize Vanakalam (Kharif)/2025-26,Date:14.04.2026
TENDER NOTICE

Subject: Disposal of Maize Vanakalam (Kharif) 2025-26 procured by TG MARKFED

Sealed online e-tenders are hereby invited through a two-bid system (comprising Pre-Qualification Bid and Commercial Bid) for the disposal of Maize (Vanakalam/Kharif) for the year 2025-26. The total quantity available for disposal is 3,80,187 metric tonnes, divided into five (5) equal lots, procured by TG MARKFED. The tender process shall be conducted through the official e-procurement platform: **http://tender.telangana.gov.in**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Commencement of Bid Submission: 15 April 2026, from 03:00 PM.
- Last Date for Bid Submission: 22 April 2026, up to 05:00 PM.
- Opening of Pre-Qualification Bids: 23 April 2026, from 11:00 AM.
- Opening of Commercial Bids: 23 April 2026, at 03:00 PM.

SUPPORT & CONTACT DETAILS

For technical assistance and online registration, bidders may contact: Phone number: 7337445545/6309339690/7337445546/9912756216
For tender-related queries, please contact: Ph: 7288879806/7288879829

Sd/-Managing Director,
Telangana Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd

DIPR R.O.No.29-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27, Dt: 14-04-2026

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ROBERT H SCHULLER

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THE SECRET OF GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED › MARK TWAIN

pnb Housing Finance Limited Ghar Ki Baat

Regd. Office:- 9th Floor, Antrakish Bhavan, 22, K G Marg, New Delhi-110001. Ph: 011-23357171, 23357172, 23705414, Web: www.pnbhousing.com; Branch Address : No. 40, Jodh Tower 3rd Floor, 27th Cross,5th Main Road, Jayanagar 4th Block,Bangalore 560 011.

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **PNB Housing Finance Ltd**. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & in compliance of Rule 8(1) of Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice/s on the date mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s)/date of receipt of the said notice/s. The borrower/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each account. The borrower/s in par- ticular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of **PNB Housing Finance Ltd.**, for the amount and interest thereon as per loan agreement. The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

S. No	Loan A/c No(s)	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	Amount Outstanding	Date of Possession Taken	Description of the Property/ies mortgaged
1	HOU/ MRH/ 0323/ 1092797	Mr. Chandrappa Ambiger and Mr. Akkamma Ambiger	16/01/ 2026	Rs. 49,68,857/- (Rupees Forty Nine Lakhs Sixty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Seven Only) due as on 16-01-2026	09-04-2026 (Physical Possession)	"All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No 10, formed in converted Survey No.1 (Vide Conversion Order No. B.DIS.ALN.SR(N)36/2003-04, dated: 05-06-2003, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Bengaluru District, Bengaluru situated Medarahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru) measuring East to West (35-0 + 40-0) /2 feet and North to South: 40-0 feet in all total measuring 1500 Sq feet and bounded on:"East by : Private Property "West by : Road "North by : Site No.09 "South by : Private Property.
2	NHL/ MLS/ 0418/ 523309	Mrs. Gomathi D, Mr. Raman Velu and M/s. Akash Industries	07/01/ 2026	Rs.33,70,729/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Seventy Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Nine Only) due as on 16-01-2026	09-04-2026 (Symbolic Possession)	"All that piece and parcel of the property bearing BDA No. 182, Southern portion of Municipal No.182/85, present BDA No. 182/A, Municipal No.182/85/1, Situated at 3rd Block, Rajajinagar, Prakashnagar, 8th Cross, BBMP Ward No.23, Bangalore, measuring East to West 40 feet, and North to South 15 feet along with 2 Square feet RCC roofed house and bounded on the :"East by: Property No.218,"West by: Road,"North by: Remaining portion of Municipal No. 182/85, BDA No. 182, belongs to P. Krishnamurthy, "South by: Property No.181."

Date:09.04.2026, Place:Bangalore **Sd/- Authorised Officer, PNB Housing Finance Limited**

6.5% India's GDP growth the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected for FY27, up from 6.4% forecast in its January outlook

LABOUR UNREST IN NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Labourers stage protests in Noida | PTI

1. Interim minimum wage hikes in UP (21%) and Haryana (35%)
2. NCR houses large mfg units across electronics, automobile and textiles
3. Protests originating in Manesar have spread across major NCR cities
4. Large cos see limited impact as they follow higher wage standards
5. Labour forms less than 20% of production cost for many sectors

Cos say wage revisions could push costs up

PUSHPITA DEY/ ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

WITH the Uttar Pradesh and Haryana governments announcing interim hikes in minimum wages amid labour unrest in the NCR, industry estimates suggest the revisions could push wage bills up by nearly 30-35%. The UP government has raised minimum wages by 21%, while Haryana has announced a 35% increase.

"Our wage bill is likely to go up by at least 30% because the increase announced by the UP government is only for minimum wages. The overall cost to company will rise by almost 30%. It is a very tough time for industries, especially small and micro enterprises," said Jitendra Rana, chairman of the Indian Industries Association, a UP-based MSME body.

The protests, began in Manesar, Haryana, last week and have since spread to Gautam Buddha Nagar in UP, threaten to disrupt operations across key industrial hubs in the NCR — Noida, Greater Noida, Faridabad, Manesar, Gurugram and Ghaziabad. The region houses several large manufacturing units across electronics, automobiles and textiles.

A spokesperson for a large electronics manufacturer said the wage issue is largely confined to smaller units where salaries are relatively low. Large corporations, particularly MNCs, typically adhere to global wage standards, limiting the impact.

Some industries noted that labour accounts for a relatively small share of total production costs, which may cushion the overall impact. However, Noida-based exporters cautioned that rising wage costs, coupled with higher input prices due to the West Asia crisis, could weigh on margins.

Security guards stage protest in Noida

A textile exporter in Noida said labour accounts for less than a fifth of total production costs and that higher wages can be passed on through pricing. "Labour cost is less than 20% of overall production cost. Production costs have already risen due to the West Asia crisis, and many customers are aware and willing to pay higher prices. We can absorb higher wages as long as revisions are uniform across states," the exporter said.

"This calls for a coordinated response — stabilising energy and input costs, ensuring availability of essential supplies for workers, and supporting MSMEs with working capital and flexibility in labour compliances, so that enterprises can retain their workforce and maintain operations," said Vinod Kumar Wuthoo, president, India SME Forum.

Under UP's revised structure, monthly wages for unskilled workers have increased to ₹13,690 from ₹11,313, for semi-skilled workers to ₹15,059 from ₹12,445, and for skilled workers to ₹16,868 from ₹13,940. In Haryana, wages for unskilled workers have risen from ₹11,274 to ₹15,220, while semi-skilled wages have increased from ₹12,430 to ₹16,781.

Large corporations said they will continue to prioritise employee well-being to ensure operational stability. Dixon Technologies, which operates 16 units in Noida, said it is focusing on employee safety, with authorities coordinating with industries to restore normalcy. Motherson Group said the unrest in Noida stems from misinformation around wage revisions and has not affected its operations, adding that worker safety remains a priority.

Exporters tweak products to offset rising input costs

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

A sustained rise in input and logistics costs, triggered by the West Asia crisis, is squeezing Indian exports, with firms across sectors finding it increasingly difficult to pass on higher prices to global buyers.

From engineering goods to garments, exporters say overseas customers remain highly price-sensitive, prompting companies to absorb the shock through cost-cutting, product tweaks and a sharper focus on the domestic market.

"Due to the surge in prices of industrial diesel, furnace oil and plastics, along with higher freight costs, input costs are up 10-15%. We have orders for the next three months, but costs have risen since those orders were placed. Customers are not always willing to accept higher prices," said Sanjoo Tandon, vice-president (international business) at Eastman, an exporter of forging, machining and casting parts.

The pressure has intensified in recent weeks amid LPG shortages and soaring freight rates. Sameer Ralhan, owner of Punjab-based hand tools maker Sri Tools Industries, pointed to a fresh spike in March. "Input costs rose 4-5% in March alone, driven by higher prices of paper, cartons and rubber. Logistics costs can only be adjusted if demand and supply are aligned," he said. To cope, exporters are diverting part of their production to the domestic market, where some cost increases can be passed on. They caution that operational efficiency is also taking a hit.

"Higher input costs can be partly passed on domestically, but not in export markets, where buyers are extremely price-conscious and expect better pricing every year. At the same time, efficiency is being impacted due to scarcity of industrial gas and increased reliance on diesel," said Gaurav Munjal, managing director of Hero Ecotech.

Higher input costs can be partly passed on domestically, but not in export markets, where buyers are price-conscious

Gaurav Munjal, MD, Hero Ecotech

FOCUS ON DOMESTIC MARKET

From engineering goods to garments, exporters say overseas customers remain price sensitive, prompting companies to absorb shock through cost-cutting, product tweaks and sharper focus on the domestic market. The pressure has gone up amid LPG shortages and soaring freight rates

Others are making subtle changes to product design to protect margins. Eveline, a textile manufacturer supplying to global brands such as Van Heusen and Guess, said reducing value-added elements is emerging as a key strategy. "We cannot raise prices in export markets, so we are cutting down on embroidery and other handwork to offset higher costs. This helps absorb some of the pressure," the company said.

Industry bodies warn the stress is likely to persist in the near term. Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) president S C Ralhan said it may take a few months for exporters to absorb the cost increases. "Sectors already hit by US tariffs and dependent on that market will see recovery only after the proposed India-US BTA comes into effect," he said.

RBI keeps Tata Sons in upper layer NBFC list

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

The Reserve Bank has continued to classify Tata Sons as a core investment company (CIC) in the upper layer, according to its latest NBFC list. It kept the Tata Group's holding company within the ambit of potential listing requirements.

On April 10, the RBI issued a draft proposing changes in the criteria for identifying upper layer non-banking finance companies, pitching for an asset-size-based approach as against the present system based on operational scale and inclusion of state-run non-banks into the list. The RBI proposes to tag an NBFC with assets of over ₹1 trillion as an upper-layer entity, which will be under more regulatory scrutiny once notified.

"It is proposed to replace the existing methodology with asset size criteria, which is proposed at ₹1,00,000 crore and above," the draft said.

The draft comes at a time when the listing of Tata Sons, holding company of the $160 billion giant, is under public debate and all eyes are focused on whether the entity gets a regulatory relief. "The asset-size based classification leaves no leeway for Tata Sons to remain a private entity. With ₹1.75 trillion in standalone assets as of March 2025, and ₹6.65 trillion of consolidated assets, proposed framework give no room to avoid a listing," an expert told TNIE.

Another analyst who also did not want to be named said, "so long as the regulatory criterion of upper layer stays as it is now and when the new framework kicks in, unless given an exemption by the regulator, Tata Sons remains in the list of upper last NBFCs, at least for the next five years when a review will be undertaken for re-classification or declassification. Its purely RBI's call now."

Gold loans register sharp growth

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

GOLD loans witnessed massive rise to become the country's second-largest retail credit product by balance share after housing loans, according to TransUnion CIBIL's Gold Loan Landscape Report.

Gold loans share in retail credit portfolio has risen 3.8 times from 5.9% in March 2022 to 11.1% by December 2025. Housing loans with 27.8% share by balance as of December 2025 forms the largest retail credit product. Gold loans have cornered 39% of all incremental credit disbursals in December quarter, vastly outpacing housing loans that otherwise is the largest retail credit segment netting only 11% of the fresh loans.

For the period between March 2022 and December 2025, home loans remain the largest retail credit portfolio, with a total outstanding of ₹44 trillion or 27.8% of the total, while gold loans come second with ₹16 trillion outstanding, cornering 11.1% of the total retail credit, the report stated.

"Driven by the record rally in gold prices in 2025, when looked at from an incremental loan disbursal, gold loans have overtaken housing loan, which otherwise is the largest retail credit segment to become the largest with a share of 39% in the December 2025 quarter, as against the meagre 11% for home loans," Bhavesh Jain, chief executive, Transunion Cibil told TNIE on Tuesday.

Gold loan origination value has risen 5.1x since Q1 of 2022 and the average ticket size has more than doubled from ₹90,000 to ₹1.96 lakh, Jain said.

Prime and above prime borrowers now account for nearly 52% of originations.

Renault India begins delivery of new Duster

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

RENAULT INDIA on Tuesday commenced its nationwide customer deliveries of its new Renault Duster turbo-petrol variant in Chennai.

The French carmaker's Indian arm also inaugurated its new'R store on Mount Road in the city, opening its second outlet in Chennai thereby strengthening its retail footprint. After a gap of four years, the company coming onto the Indian road with new SUV at a starting price of ₹10.49 lakh (ex-showroom). In January, the carmaker announced its comeback to the Indian roads with new mid-size SUV. The new Duster is built on the Renault Group Modular Platform (RGMP). The SUV is offered with two turbo petrol engine options — 1.0-litre Turbo TCe 100 (100PS and 166Nm) and 1.3-litre Turbo TCe 160 (163PS and 280Nm).

West Asia crisis may impact vehicle demand

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

THE West Asia conflict could adversely impact India's automotive sector even as the industry wrapped up FY2025-26 on a high a note with robust sales.

Shailesh Chandra, President of SIAM and managing director of Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV), stated that the evolving geopolitical tensions could disrupt automotive production and curb demand by driving up commodity and fuel prices among other headwinds facing the industry.

"Development arising from West Asia is posing certain risks. Supply disruptions have led to a shortage of propane and ethylene, which are critical inputs for manufacturing operations. Additionally, pressures are emerging from shortages and cost escalation across select petrochemical and other key commodities. Global logistical conditions have also become more volatile with rising shipping costs and longer routes," said Chandra on Tuesday while highlighting the auto industry's performance in FY26.

COST PRESSURE

1. Tata Motors says crisis may disrupt auto production
2. Supply disruptions lead to shortage of critical inputs
3. Global logistics have become volatile as shipping costs rise

India's automobile sales surged sharply in FY2025-26, with all major vehicle segments posting their highest annual sales in seven years. According to Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) data, total domestic vehicle sales rose 10.4% year-on-year to 2.83 crore units, with passenger vehicles, two-wheelers, three-wheelers and commercial vehicles recording their best annual performance in recent years.

Giving a glimpse of the current situation, Chandra stated that while enquiries remain strong, conversions are getting delayed. He added that if fuel prices rise in a sustained manner over the coming weeks, it could also weigh on demand. "We will have to closely watch consumer behaviour if fuel prices move up," he said.

Industry executives expect retail fuel prices to go up once the elections in different states are over by the end of this month. So far, India has not seen any increase even as Brent crude prices have soared above $100/barrel, well above $70/barrel before war broke out in West Asia on February 28.

SIAM reviewing CAFE norms, to submit view soon

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) is reviewing the new draft fuel efficiency norm CAFE III and will discuss with its members on readiness of manufacturers to finalise a view on implementation timeline, said Shailesh Chandra, President of SIAM on Tuesday. The industry body will submit its position to the government in near future.

He declined to comment when asked about incentives proposed for small cars in the draft of corporate average fuel efficiency (CAFE-III) norms. "SIAM never commented on small cars as it was a topic where there were mixed views," said Chandra, also MD and CEO of Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles.

ASIANOMICS

JAPAN

IRAN WAR HITS ECONOMY, CREATES MKT VOLATILITY

Bank of Japan Governor Kazuo Ueda has said uncertainty over the Middle East conflict was keeping markets unstable and could hurt factory output, signalling the bank's escalating alarm over the economic hit from the protracted war. Ueda stressed the need for vigilance against fallout from the Iran war in explaining the outlook for monetary policy, rather than sticking to the BOJ's script pledging to keep raising interest rates. The reference to the uncertainty is a shift from March's guidance, when the BOJ said only that it would keep raising rates in line with improvements in the economy and prices. In his speech, Ueda said a gradual economic recovery was keeping underlying inflation on track to hit the BOJ's target of 2%, with companies offering solid pay increases in this year's wage talks.

THAILAND

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR COMES UNDER PRESSURE

Thailand's industrial sector is coming under pressure, with factory closures rising sharply and business leaders warning that the country could slide towards stagflation if the energy crisis drags on. Kriengkrai Thiennukul, chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI), said Thai industry faced pressure on multiple fronts in Q1 of 2026, leaving manufacturing and trade in a fragile state. One of the key pressures, he said, came from uncertainty surrounding US trade measures after Thailand's trade surplus with the US rose rapidly, The Nation reported. Thailand moved from 11th place in 2024 to seventh in 2025 among countries drawing Washington's attention, raising concerns that it could come under scrutiny under Section 301.

PHILIPPINES

CUTS TAX ON FUELS TO EASE PRICE SHOCK

Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos on Monday said the government will reduce excise taxes on LPG and kerosene to ease the fuel price shock due to the impact of the US-Israeli war on Iran. Following the legislature's earlier passage of a law authorising him to adjust fuel excise taxes, Marcos said the cost of liquefied petroleum gas, the country's fuel of choice for cooking, would be trimmed by 3.36 pesos (5.6 US cents) per kilogram from Tuesday. He said the price of kerosene, the cooking fuel used by poorer families, would drop by 5.60 pesos per litre. Marcos said he would convene a meeting of a government crisis committee Tuesday to discuss possible excise tax adjustments on gasoline and diesel, the main fuels for public transport.

IT cos move beyond software, shift towards physical AI infra

PADMINI DHRUVARAJ @ Bengaluru

THE country's information technology services industry is moving beyond its traditional role as a software and outsourcing powerhouse, with leading firms increasingly stepping into the physical infrastructure needed to support artificial intelligence at scale.

TCS in its fourth quarter earnings call said its Hyperworld business had made "major progress" in building AI infrastructure capacity. It said this includes customer commitments, land parcel finalisation and partnership agreements, as it works towards a one-gigawatt capacity buildout. TCS said customer demand is converging around large anchor AI workloads in 100-200 megawatt range per customer, signalling a shift from pilot AI projects to large-scale compute infrastructure. The latest infrastructure push follows TCS's earlier announcement that OpenAI had signed up as a customer for its data-centre business, with an initial 100 MW capacity plan and an option to scale to 1 GW.

Industry shift

HCLTech in its Q3 earnings call said the company is seeing demand rising in areas such as robotics, AI factories, data centres and semiconductor engineering. "We see continued momentum in AI-powered solutions like physical AI, which include robotics, AI factory, custom silicon engineering for edge inferencing chips," management said.

It said spending is moving away from traditional discretionary tech areas towards foundational AI infrastructure. "There are so much Capex investments going into data centres," it said, adding that professional services linked to robotics, physical AI and edge inferencing silicon are seeing strong momentum.

This reflects a wider change in the IT industry's business model. For years, firms focused on software development, cloud migration and digital transformation. Infosys has stepped up hiring and capability building around AI-ready delivery systems. Wipro has continued expanding its focus on infrastructure services, cloud platforms, data analytics and AI operations. "Physical AI could become a new revenue stream for Indian IT services firms, potentially adding 8–12% incremental revenue over the next two to three years," said an analyst at a domestic broking firm.

Warne's son says Covid vaccines caused legend's death

Four years after Shane Warne's death left the cricketing world in shock, his son Jackson has asserted that the spin legend's demise was probably caused by the "three or four" Covid vaccines that he was "forced to take for work." Speaking on '2 Worlds Collide podcast', Jackson, however, also acknowledged that his father underlying health issues.

Time for Ruturaj to step up as a batter

CSK captain has managed just 63 runs from five innings so far

GOMESH S @ Chennai

CSK's Ruturaj Gaikwad was sent back to the pavillion in the third over of the match by KKR's Anukul Roy in the IPL in Chennai on Tuesday | ASHWIN PRASATH

RUTURAJ Gaikwad knew that he was out from the moment he slog swept Anukul Roy. It was only the second ball of the third over during the IPL match between Kolkata Knight Riders and Chennai Super Kings here at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Tuesday. And the CSK skipper threw his back in disappointment moments after, with Rovman Powell completing the catch in the deep.

Gaikwad knew what the dismissal meant. The Chennai captain's scores so far read — 6, 28, 7, 15 and 7. Sixty-three runs in five games. An average of 12.6 and a strike rate of 105. That was not how Gaikwad would have expected this season to go so far. Not in his third year as Chennai captain, where both he and the franchise are looking for a desperate turnaround.

Truth be told, Gaikwad not scoring runs is a bit of an anomaly. For all the questions and criticisms about his captaincy, tactics or intent on the field as bowling captain, the one thing everyone knows is that Gaikwad is a consistent run accumulator. He has made a reputation for himself right from the breakout season in 2021, where he helped the Super Kings lift their fourth title.

Gaikwad followed up with a 368-run season in 2022, 590 runs in 2023 and 583 in 2024 (his first year as captain). Last season, he only played five games — the same as he has so far — before getting ruled out due to injury. He may not be the Priyansh Aryas and Vaibhav Sooryavanshis of the world, but Gaikwad is one of the consistent batters of this generation, like Shubman Gill and B Sai Sudharsan.

So coming into this season, pressure was on Gaikwad to not just deliver as a batter but also step up his game and show the world — and the CSK fans to an extent that he is the right man to lead from the front for the five-time champions, especially with Sanju Samson in the team now. Safe to say, the Maharashtra batter has fallen short drastically so far. And not just by his standards but also in comparison with his contemporaries.

Until the first innings of the CSK versus KKR tie, only Riyan Parag and Axar Patel had fewer runs than Gaikwad (among designated full-time skippers). Parag is a middle-order batter whose team and top-order are on an overdrive, while Axar is not a specialist batter. And Gaikwad stands at eighth place on the list, where the top four are Ishan Kishan (201 runs), Rajat Patidar (195), Shubman Gill (165) and Shreyas Iyer (137). With Gill, Ajinkya Rahane and Gaikwad being the only specialist batters who double up as openers, the former two have a much better start to the season so far. Rahane, in fact, didn't open the innings on Tuesday.

What would be even more concerning for both CSK and Gaikwad is that he has not been able to replicate the kind of authority Kishan or Patidar has shown with the bat so far. Though Patidar is in his early 30s, there seems to be a visible improvement in his power-hitting, especially against pace. He has upskilled himself in a way that even Virat Kohli joked about Patidar showing 'main character energy' for his longer hair in one of the videos shared by the franchise. The Royal Challengers Bengaluru captain has lived up to that with the bat as well in a team that has a star like Kohli. Gaikwad, too, seemed to have grown out his hair a bit. But in terms of his impact on the field — there is no doubt about his talent or ability to deliver — the CSK captain has not been able to produce the kind of knocks he is known for. Back in 2024, he once spoke about showing more intent up front, even at the cost of taking more risks. This year, that, too, has been absent despite pushing himself back to the top at the cost of Ayush Mhatre, who continues to deliver.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

DESIGNATED CAPTAINS BATTING RECORD

Player	Mat	Runs	Avg	SR
Kishan	5	213	42.6	190.17
Patidar	4	195	65	214.28
Gill	3	165	55	147.32
Iyer	4	137	68.5	187.67
Rahane	5	152	38	149.01
Pant	4	103	34.33	130.37
Pandya	3	67	33.5	171.79
Gaikwad	5	63	12.6	105
Parag	5	49	12.25	136.11
Axar	4	3	1	50

Till CSK vs KKR match

Sanju, Noor glow as Kings beat Knights

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

CSK's Dewald Brevis hit 29-ball 41 against KKR on Tuesday | ASHWIN PRASATH

T20 WORLD Cup hero Sanju Samson's 48 at the top of the order and spinner Noor Ahmad's 3/21 helped Chennai Super Kings overcome Kolkata Knight Riders by 32 runs in the IPL here on Tuesday.

Samson and Ayush Mhatre raised 47 runs off just 22 balls for the second wicket and laid the platform for the middle-order batters to exploit. Later, Samson and Brevis added 39 off 32 balls. But the partnership (51 off 29 balls) between Brevis and Sarfaraz for the fourth wicket helped the hosts post a challenging total of 192/5.

In reply, KKR got off to disastrous start with both the openers — Finn Allen, followed by Sunil Narine — sent back within the fifth over.

Captain Ajinkya Rahane and Angkrish Raghuvanshi tried to steady the ship, putting on a partnership of 50 runs. But just as they were looking to up the ante, both were sent back in quick succession. Noor, who accounted the wicket of Rahane, later picked up two more wickets to finish with impressive figures of 3/21. Rovman Powell (31 n.o) and Ramandeep Singh later put on a partnership of 63 runs but it was too little, too late. KKR ended with 160/7 in 20 overs.

Earlier, CSK, who were put in to bat first, started with a bang with Samson scoring three consecutive boundaries in the point area off Vaibhav Arora. He erred in line and length around the off peg and the Kerala wicketkeeper-batter used the pace and bounce of the ball to score runs freely. His opening partner and CSK skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad, fell for a paltry score of 7.

Ruturaj went for a slog sweep off Anukul Roy which fell to the hands of Rovman Powell at deep mid-wicket. His lean patch this season continues.

Mhatre joined Samson at the wicket and got into the act immediately. The U19 World Cup-winning captain scored boundaries at will and his back-to-back sixes off Cameron Green had the crowd on their feet. Later, he struck a hat-trick of boundaries off Arora before his innings came to an end in the last ball of the over. Mhatre made 38 off just 17 balls and helped his team make 72 runs inside the powerplay. Samson and Brevis later took charge of the proceedings to help CSK post a big score.

Brief scores: CSK 192/5 in 20 ovs (Samson 48, Brevis 41; Narine 1/21) **bt** KKR 160/7 in 20 ovs (Ramandeep 35, Powell 31 n.o; Noor 3/21).

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Royal Challengers look to be at home

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Bengaluru

Virat Kohli at the nets on the eve of RCB's tie vs LSG in Bengaluru | KEVIN NASHON

FOR over 15 years, Royal Challengers Bengaluru couldn't do one of the most foundational things needed to become a dominant side. Win at home.

But, over the last few years, they have been doing one of the hardest things in an elite franchise-based league. Win away from home.

It's why the franchise ended their long wait for a title. It's why the team have let go of apprehensions of playing in front of their own fans. It's why the holders are no longer one of the league's punching bags — that mantle has safely been passed on to some of the other sides. It's also why they have begun the season with three wins in four.

They rocked up to the Wankhede the other night, looked the five-time champions in the eye, scored 240 and won by 18 runs. Since the beginning of the 2024 season, they have only lost six matches away from home. In terms of wins, they have 13 in the same time period, again one of the best by this metric. It has directly resulted in them being the only team to qualify for the knockouts in both 2024 and 2025. Some of the issues of playing at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium has been well documented. The postage-stamp nature of the ground and a usually good batting surface (the complexion has changed in the last year or two) has meant the bowlers have traditionally suffered here. But they have improvised to become a lethal side away from home.

In the past, they were a team whose parts were lesser than their sum. Now, they are greater than the sum of their parts. They have installed a data-driven culture at the club and have followed where the evidence has taken them. The likes of Phil Salt, Josh Hazlewood — two overseas stars who are key to what they do up top in both facets of the game — were pursued and purchased. Players were targeted not based on the names at the back of their jerseys but what they brought to the table.

In the past, players left the franchise before rediscovering their mojo. These days, players rediscover their fun after coming here. Even in this auction, the presence of mind to pick a proven T20-ready overseas replacement for Hazlewood — Jacob Duffy — is praise-worthy. Under the previous regime, there were certain gaps. This leadership group legislate for almost everything.

Can this group of players — who went the whole league stage unbeaten away from home in 2025 — start aping those results at home. It's why the next week promises a lot of intrigue as they begin a nine-day, three-match at home sequence.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

ROYAL'S CHANCE TO GO TOP

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BENGALURU AIM TO SOLIDIFY THEIR SPOT AT THE TOP WHILE LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS SEARCH FOR CONSISTENCY. A LOOK...

Patidar making a case for India call-up

There is a clamour to cap 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. But Rajat Patidar is rapidly staking a claim for an India call-up in this format. His spin-bashing skills will keep him in good stead and he also has the rare ability to go from ball one. So far this season, his scores read 31,48 n.o, 63 & 53.

Eyes on Lucknow's foreign batters

Teams usually don't build a batting unit centred around overseas stars. But Lucknow are now in a pickle as Mitchell Marsh, Aiden Markram and Nicholas Pooran, as a triumvirate, have been below par. At their best, they may account for 4-5 wins on their own. They need that as soon as possible.

RCB vs LSG, Bengaluru, 7.30 pm | LIVE on Star Sports and JioHotstar

Ecstasy, joy & happiness rolled into one: Williams on India goal

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Chennai

MARCH 31 2026. That was the date Aussie-born India forward Ryan Williams had written on his wall and constantly looked at it everyday before the day finally arrived. It was when he got to represent India after a fairly long wait. Months after he gave up his Australian passport to play for the India men's senior national team, he opened his India account five minutes into his debut against Hong Kong in the AFC Asian Cup qualifiers. India won the game 2-1.

In November 2025, Williams had surrendered his Australian passport for an Indian one. He was also part of the India camp but could not play matches then as an NOC certificate from Football Australia did not reach on time. Additionally, Indian law does not allow dual citizenship and the national sports policy mandates only full citizens to represent the country. His Indian roots originate from his maternal grandfather Lincoln Grostate, who was an Anglo-Indian footballer. He played for Mumbai.

Two weeks after he scored his first goal, Williams opened up on when he got the idea to represent India, the lead-up to his debut and goal. "I was more nervous about making sure I got the words right for the national anthem than the game itself!," he recounted in a virtual interaction with this daily. The lead-up to the tie was more nervous than exciting. A minor injury to his calf had forced him out of Bengaluru FC's 3-1 win against Inter Kashi a week before India's tie. But Williams knew in his mind that he was going to do well.

On a humid night in Kochi, Williams opened his India account. Feeding on a good through-ball on the right flank, Manvir squared it nicely to Williams in the box, who slotted it in the bottom right corner. "I thought, I'm gonna miss this. But the goal came out of that zone where just everything just happens, you don't really remember anything," he said.

"(It was) pure ecstasy because there was relief in there, there's joy, happiness. It was everything rolled into one, because I'd imagined that moment numerous times in my head," he added.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Sindarov to battle with Gukesh for world title

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Bengaluru

IT'S official. Javokhir Sindarov will be D Gukesh's challenger at the Classical World Championships later this year. The Uzbek phenom, just 20, displayed an uncommon capacity to punish all errors made by his opponents during the ongoing eight-man Candidates event, the competition from where the winner advances to the title clash.

Over the last two-and-a-half weeks in Cyprus, the 20-year-old emerged as the undisputed champion thanks to some gun chess against all players. In the penultimate round against Anish Giri, the only player who may have caught him in the final round with back-to-back wins, tried to create something but Sindarov, with black, was rock solid. The first half of this tournament helped him gain all the momentum in the world when he went back-to-back-to-back against R Praggnandhaa, Fabiano Caruana and Hikaru Nakamura, the three pre-tournament favourites.

From an Indian perspective, R Vaishali ensured she would go into the final day on the back of a draw.

Results (Rd 13): Open: Anish Giri drew with Javokhir Sindarov, Hikaru Nakamura drew with Matthias Bluebaum. **Women:** R Vaishali drew with Tan Zhongyi, Kateryna Lagno bt Divya Deshmukh.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

Shuttler Ayush rises to career-high World No 18

CHENNAI: Ayush Shetty, who had a sensational week at the Badminton Asia Championships, jumped to career-high ranking of World No 18. He jumped seven places thanks to his silver medal effort. Gold medallist Shi Yu Qi reclaimed the World No 1 ranking.

PSL hands Muzarabani 2-yr ban for choosing IPL

LAHORE: Blessing Muzarabani has been handed a two-year ban by the Pakistan Super League after the Zimbabwe pacer chose to play the Indian Premier League while having a deal with a PSL franchise. Muzarabani was signed by Islamabad United but withdrew from PSL for IPL.

Trial over Maradona's death resumes

BUENOS AIRES: The trial of seven health care professionals accused of negligence in the death of soccer great Diego Maradona resumed on Tuesday, nearly a year after the original proceedings collapsed when a presiding judge stepped down.

BIG NIGHT

ARSENAL & BAYERN WILL LOOK TO MAKE THEIR ADVANTAGE COUNT WHEN THEY FACE SPORTING AND REAL MADRID, RESPECTIVELY IN THE 2ND LEG OF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUARTERFINAL

Bayern vs Real Madrid | Aggregate 2-1

Bayern, after taking slender lead in the away leg, will back themselves to get the job done. Luis Diaz, Harry Kane, the goalscorers in the first leg, will be looking to add to their tally. However, Real Madrid can never be written off.

Arsenal vs Sporting | Aggregate 1-0

Arsenal have been far from their best in recent ties and after a setback in their recent outing against Bournemouth, Mikel Arteta's men will be keen to put up an improved show.

LIVE ON SONY SPORTS NETWORK @ 12:30 AM (1ST THURSDAY)

Good to know that a lot of people take me as an inspiration, says Sindhu

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Bengaluru

AT the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre on Saturday, a 90-minute drive from the city on a good day, thousands of people gathered to put their bodies on the line. Over 8000 participants tested themselves, some of them somewhat unconvincingly, as part of the Ultra-human HYROX Bengaluru, a two-day fitness carnival.

There was one truly world-class athlete as part of the pack. PV Sindhu, a Puma ambassador. The multiple Olympic medallist featured in the mixed relay category. She had to run, carry weights through a course in one of the giant halls inside the complex as well as use the ergometer, a machine typically used by elite rowers to chisel their muscles. Before she was cheered on by Harmanpreet Kaur, India's World Cup-winning captain and another Puma ambassador, Sindhu spoke to this daily on what makes her happy these days, her 2026, what training with Irwansyah has added to her game and why she feels women's badminton has completely changed with the ushering in of a new generation. Excerpts:

■ On the legacy you will leave behind (will it be the medals or something more fundamental)

It's overall. It's been a journey. Olympic medals, World Championships medals but also being a role model to a lot of youngsters. I'm happy that a lot of youngsters look up to me, people who want to start playing sport and wanting to actually become like me. It's good to know that a lot of people take me as an inspiration and want to take up playing sport.

■ On how important that is you (being an inspiring figure for the next generation)

More than important, it's good to see that and feel happy about it. When kids look up to me, they know 'okay, we have a role model in mind. We want to become like her, how hard it takes to become a champion or come to her level'. When people come and ask me, I do tell them (the things that I did when I was growing up). It reminds me a lot about what my parents used to tell me when I was growing up.

■ On the things you have been working on with Irwansyah

Right now, the game has completely changed. It was a faster game when Wang Yihan, Tai (Tzu-ying) and Carolina (Marin)... since they are not here, I think the game has become slower. Longer rallies and longer games, so you need to adapt to that. So, that's what I'm doing, to be able to be on court for a longer period of time. It's about being patient and being calm. And that change has to be both in terms of mental and physical. In terms of mental, calmer, more patient. In terms of physical, you have to have the ability to withstand every physical point.

■ On the proposed changes to the scoring system (best

A lot of people are having mixed thoughts. A few of them want to retain the existing system. Some of them want 15. I think change is good but you also need to adapt to it. I have let my thoughts known on the proposed changes.

This interview was facilitated by PUMA x Hyrox

Full story: newindianexpress.com

MYTHS & FACTS

THINK AGAIN

Black holes suck everything in like cosmic vacuum cleaners

THE FACT: Black holes do not "suck" objects in from far away. They behave like any other object with gravity, just much stronger when you get very close

1. Gravity depends on distance and mass. Its pull is no different from any other object of the same mass
2. If the Sun were replaced by a black hole of the same mass, Earth would keep orbiting in the same path – it wouldn't suddenly be pulled in
3. Space is vast and mostly empty, so objects rarely come close enough to be affected
4. There is no active "pulling force" – objects fall in only if they cross a certain distance or lose speed and drift too close
5. Objects need speed to escape gravity; near a black hole, that speed exceeds all limits

When does it become dangerous?

Danger begins near event horizon, the point beyond which nothing can escape

Objects that wander too close can get trapped and pulled in

Matter can also spiral inward, forming a bright accretion disk before falling in

Why it looks like suction

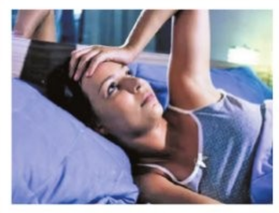
The swirling motion of gas and dust around black holes makes it look like they are "pulling" everything in

In reality, it's just gravity acting on nearby matter, not a vacuum-like force

SCIENCE IN PLAIN SIGHT

WHY DO YOU TWITCH RIGHT BEFORE SLEEP?

THAT sudden jolt before sleep — a hypnic jerk — is a brief myoclonic muscle contraction that occurs as your brain transitions from wakefulness to early sleep. It's not just a "falling reflex" but a complex event involving motor, sensory and even autonomic systems. The jerk can be non-repetitive, and short, sometimes paired with sensations like falling, a flash of light, or even a loud internal sound.



Neurophysiologically, evidence points to activity in the brainstem and spinal cord, possibly due to a temporary drop in inhibitory control during sleep onset. This creates a burst of motor activity — a brief release of built-up signals. They're common (reported in up to 70% of people), usually harmless, but can intensify with stress, fatigue, or sleep deprivation.

CLEAN TECHNOLOGY

From wood waste to disinfectant

South Korean researchers have developed an eco-friendly carbon catalyst capable of producing hydrogen peroxide using waste lignin, a wood byproduct that is otherwise discarded in the timber industry. Hydrogen peroxide is a versatile chemical used in a wide range of applications, from medical disinfectants to semiconductor manufacturing and water treatment, and is used in liquid and gas form as a preservative or disinfectant and for sterilisation as it is an oxidative biocide. It is also used in industrial and cosmetic applications as a bleaching agent. But its production is energy-intensive, while its transportation and storage involve high costs and significant safety and management challenges.

Now, researchers from Korea Institute of Science & Technology, Hanyang University and Pusan National University have developed a carbon-based catalyst capable of selectively generating hydrogen peroxide through electrochemical reactions using lignin. They have demonstrated hydrogen peroxide production with selectivity exceeding 95% under experimental conditions, comparable to conventional precious metal-based catalysts, while achieving cost-effectiveness and high catalytic efficiency.

This achievement demonstrates the potential to convert waste biomass into high-value-added functional materials while paving the way for energy-efficient, decentralised chemical production technologies. Considering the significance of developing a technology for efficiently producing an eco-friendly disinfectant from waste wood byproducts, the team plans to enhance the catalyst's performance for use across various industrial settings.

Simply SCIENTIFICO

Science is a world in itself. Here are some interesting facts that connect with you

Nirad Mudur

BRAIN CANDY • **Cat paw pads** are so good at cushioning falls, scientists studied them to create better footwear for paratroopers

JET, SET, FLY

MAIN TYPES OF JET ENGINES

Airbreathing Engines (Most common)

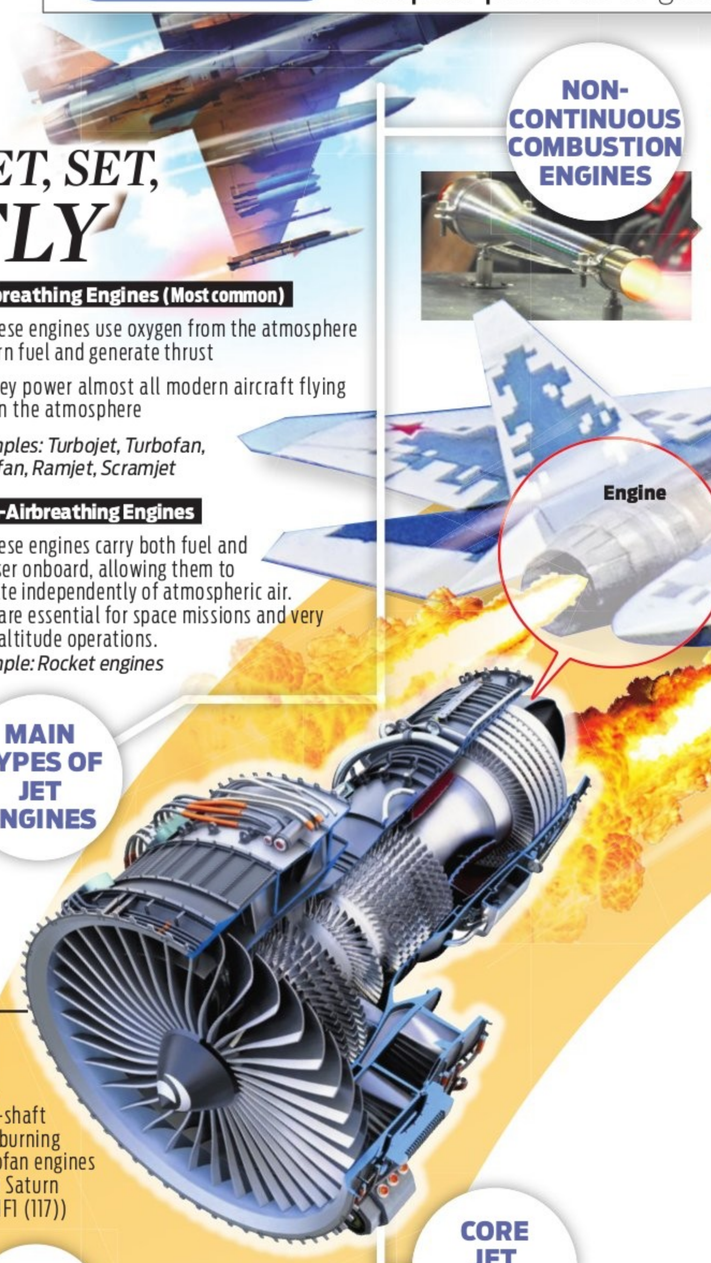
- These engines use oxygen from the atmosphere to burn fuel and generate thrust
- They power almost all modern aircraft flying within the atmosphere

Examples: Turbojet, Turbofan, Propfan, Ramjet, Scramjet

Non-Airbreathing Engines

- These engines carry both fuel and oxidiser onboard, allowing them to operate independently of atmospheric air. They are essential for space missions and very high-altitude operations.

Example: Rocket engines



NON-CONTINUOUS COMBUSTION ENGINES

MOTORJET

- Uses a piston engine to drive the compressor instead of a turbine
- Represents an early experimental approach to jet propulsion

PULSEJET

- Produces thrust through intermittent combustion cycles. Simple in design but extremely noisy and inefficient

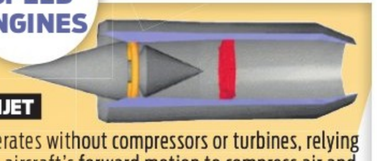
PULSE DETONATION ENGINE

- Uses controlled explosions for combustion instead of continuous burning
- Highly efficient in theory, but currently impractical for regular use

Sukhoi Su-57

Russia's premier fifth-generation, twin-engine multirole stealth fighter

HIGH-SPEED ENGINES



RAMJET

- Operates without compressors or turbines, relying on the aircraft's forward motion to compress air and becomes effective only at supersonic speeds

SCRAMJET

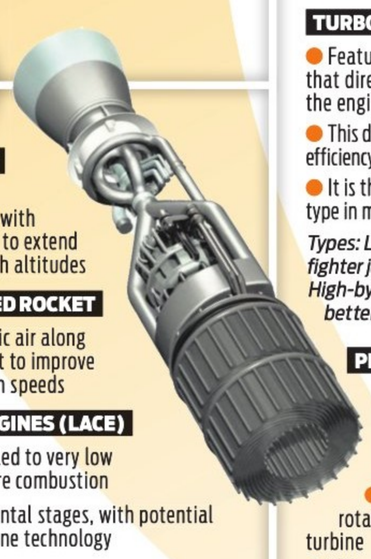
- An advanced form of ramjet where airflow remains supersonic during combustion
- Designed for hypersonic speeds exceeding Mach 5

ROCKET ENGINES

ROCKET

- Carries both fuel and oxidiser, enabling operation in space and vacuum
- Produces extremely high thrust but consumes large amounts of propellant

HYBRID / COMBINED ENGINES



TURBOROCKET

- Combines turbojet operation with additional oxidiser to extend performance at high altitudes

AIR-AUGMENTED ROCKET

- Uses atmospheric air along with rocket exhaust to improve efficiency at certain speeds

PRECOOLED ENGINES (LACE)

- Intake air is cooled to very low temperatures before combustion
- Still in experimental stages, with potential for future spaceplane technology

OTHER JET PROPULSION

WATER JET

- Uses a high-speed stream of water instead of air to produce thrust
- Commonly used in marine propulsion systems such as jet boats

CORE JET ENGINE TYPES

TURBOJET

- The earliest and simplest form of jet engine used in aviation
- All incoming air passes through the compressor, combustion chamber, and turbine
- While capable of very high speeds, it is fuel-inefficient and produces significant noise

TURBOFAN

- Features a large fan at the front that directs a portion of air around the engine core
- This design improves fuel efficiency, thrust, and noise reduction
- It is the most widely used engine type in modern commercial aviation

Types: Low-bypass: Used in fighter jets for higher speed | High-bypass: Used in airliners for better fuel efficiency

PROPFAN

- A hybrid engine combining features of turbofan and turboprop designs
- Uses open, exposed rotating blades driven by a gas turbine
- Offers high efficiency but is limited by noise and design challenges

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY ENGINES

- These engines use multi-spool systems, allowing different parts to rotate at different speeds
- This improves overall efficiency and performance under varying conditions

TOP GUN NEEDS MORE THAN A MAVERICK

Jet engines are complex high-temperature systems; India's gaps in materials, testing & infra hinder its development

SIDDHARDHA GATTIMI @ Hyderabad

IT is easy to admire an aircraft in flight, gliding across the sky, but far harder to imagine the furnace within—jet engines, where fire and metal coexist under extreme conditions, held together by precision and control. More than just a component, the jet engine is one of engineering's most complex feats, operating at the limits of science and design.

At its core, the idea is simple: to generate thrust. Unlike propellers that push air back with blades, jet engines accelerate air to high speeds and expel it rearwards, creating forward motion through Newton's third law of motion—every force pushing air back drives the aircraft ahead.

The machination

Most modern jet engines are gas turbines operating on the Brayton cycle, where air is continuously compressed, heated and expanded to generate thrust. The process unfolds in four stages: intake, compression, combustion and exhaust.

Air enters through the intake and is compressed by rotating blades, then is directed into the combustion chamber, where fuel is ignited to produce high-energy gases. These gases expand, spin the turbine and are expelled at high speed to generate thrust, while the turbine powers the compressor to sustain the cycle. A large share of the turbine's energy drives the compressor, making efficiency critical. Inside the turbine, temperatures exceed 1,500°C, exposing components to extreme heat, pressure and stress.

To withstand this, turbine blades are made from single-crystal superalloys, coated with thermal barriers and designed with internal cooling channels, making them among the most advanced metal components ever engineered.

Evolution

The development of jet engines mirrors the growth of modern aviation, driven by the pursuit of speed, altitude and control. From early turbojets of World War II to today's systems with digital controls, stealth features, thrust vectoring and supercruise, each generation pushes the boundaries further.

Developed in the 1930s by Frank Whittle and Hans von Ohain, jet engines replaced piston-propeller systems, enabling faster, higher flight. Aircraft like the de Havilland Comet and Boeing 707 made long-distance travel quicker and more accessible.

Early turbojets were fuel-hungry, noisy and hot, leading to more efficient turbofans that route extra air around the core. Modern fighters use low-bypass turbofans with afterburners for bursts of thrust, while ramjets and scramjets power supersonic and hypersonic flight.

Harder than it looks

Despite steady progress, jet engine development remains one of the most demanding tasks in engineering. It requires the integration of multiple disciplines into a system that must perform reliably under extreme temperatures, pressures and speeds, where even minor deviations can lead to failure.

Brahmini, CEO of GMach, a company working on indigenous micro turbojet engines for UAVs and target drones, says a jet engine is a highly integrated system. The compressor, combustor, turbine and nozzle are deeply interdependent.

"These are not independent units but tightly interlinked components, where the behaviour of one directly influences the performance of the others. Even a minor deviation in one section can cascade through the system, affecting efficiency, stability and safety. The real challenge, therefore, is not just designing individual components, but ensuring that all of them function seamlessly as an integrated whole," she says.

Metallurgical challenges

At the heart of this complexity lies the interaction between materials and extreme environments.

According to Dr GD Janaki Ram, professor of materials science and metallurgical engineering at IIT Hyderabad, turbine blades represent the pinnacle of materials engineering, made from single-crystal superalloys through sophisticated processes.

Jet engines use thousands of specialised components tailored to different conditions—nickel-based superalloys in the turbine for heat resistance, titanium alloys in the compressor for strength and weight, and aluminium and composites in intake and fan sections. Temperatures can reach 1,500–1,600°C, while pressure peaks in the compressor, requiring precise material selection. The combustion chamber must resist oxidation and corrosion, while the turbine endures the highest thermal and mechanical loads. Single-crystal technology improves durability by eliminating grain boundaries, but producing these components is complex, requiring precise processes such as the Bridgman technique to control solidification.

Testing infrastructure is equally important, says Brahmini. "Every component must undergo rigorous validation under simulated operating conditions, often multiple times, before it is approved for integration into the engine." She notes that countries leading in jet engine technology build expertise over decades through repeated testing and failure cycles. India, which started later, lacks this depth of data but is progressing through expanded testing programmes and improved instrumentation. Testing remains a major challenge, as engines must be validated under extreme conditions to meet strict safety standards. Strengthening this ecosystem is crucial, and India is investing in it.

India's long journey

For India, the development of jet engines remains a work in progress. While the country advances in space, missiles and aircraft manufacturing, engine technology continues to lag due to the need for a complex ecosystem of suppliers, research, metallurgy and testing. The Kaveri engine, developed by GTRE under DRDO, is sanctioned in 1989 with a 1996 deadline, later extended to 2009.

As then Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar told Rajya Sabha in 2015, delays stem from technological complexity, lack of critical materials, limited infrastructure, skilled manpower shortages and an expanded scope. Costing about ₹2,700–2,900 crore, the programme still falls short of the required afterburner thrust of 81–82 kN for the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, with a "dry" variant now planned for unmanned systems.

Certification adds further hurdles due to strict airworthiness standards, while coordination remains difficult across institutions.

Unistring Tech Solutions MD Nagendra Babu Samineni said early setbacks were due to limited access to advanced materials and a weak precision engineering ecosystem. Despite multiple prototypes and testing, a 10–12% thrust shortfall has kept the engine out of the LCA programme. He also flagged gaps in infrastructure, including high-altitude test facilities and flying test beds, forcing reliance on foreign facilities.

Strategic importance

Dependence on foreign manufacturers creates vulnerabilities, as supply delays and geopolitical factors affect access to components, upgrades and maintenance.

Nagendra Babu says, "We should not depend on foreign partnerships to develop core technologies. Companies will always protect their commercial interests." He calls for an indigenous ecosystem involving public sector units, private industry and global Indian talent, adding, "India has brilliant engineers and scientists. We should create a national consortium, attract top talent even from abroad and give them the resources, funding and time needed."

The implications extend beyond technology. A country that cannot build its own jet engine cannot fully control its fighter aircraft programme, as engines determine performance and remain subject to supplier restrictions. This capability remains concentrated among a few countries, including the US, the UK, France, Russia and China, with manufacturing dominated by firms such as General Electric, Pratt & Whitney, Rolls-Royce, Safran, Klimov and Saturn.

The story of jet engines is not just about the machine, but a test of patience and persistence. For India, the challenge is less about catching up and more about building from within, piece by piece, until the gap between ambition and capability finally disappears.

FIND THE BIG IDEAS

Solve six clues using a grid of letters to reveal the names of theories, sci-fi movies and scientists

THINK IT THROUGH

- Who discovered electromagnetic induction and powered modern motors? (7, 7)
- This sci-fi film features replicants and a dystopian future, questioning what it means to be human (5, 6)
- Which physicist proposed the uncertainty principle? (6, 10)
- Which theory explains the origin of the universe from an extremely hot and dense state? (3, 4, 6)
- What is the four-dimensional fabric that combines space and time into a single continuous model? (9, 9)
- This sci-fi film involves dreams within dreams and bending reality inside the subconscious (9)

THE LETTER GRID

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	L
M	N	O	P	R	S	T	U	W	Y

Previous Puzzles answer key: *String Theory, Interstellar, Stephen Hawking, Albert Einstein, Quantum Tunnelling, The Matrix*

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WEDNESDAY

DAY'S DIARY

WTO founded

In 1994, representatives from 124 nations signed a trade agreement which led to the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO)

PREDECESSOR

The WTO began life on January 1, 1995. Before that, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) had provided the rules for the system

SIGNIFICANCE

WTO is a forum for governments to negotiate trade agreements. It's a place for them to settle trade disputes and it operates a system of trade rules

FUNCTION

Beyond liberalising trade the WTO also helps maintain trade barriers for example, to protect consumers or prevent the spread of disease

Handpicked events to attend in Bengaluru

PG 2

'WITH AI... WE ARE ALL SCARED OF WHAT'S NEXT'

Amid the summer gleam, the city softened into something greener with the presence of the South's nightingale, Padma Bhushan KS Chithra, who opened up about music in her honey-laced voice

SRUTHI HEMACHANDRAN

SO many things can go right or get beautifully overwhelming in a single evening when you are sitting across a legend, whose voice gently lives in millions of homes. KS Chithra settles in and smiles as she speaks about her musical journey, collaborations with legendary singers and composers, and the 'classic' one with pop superstar Justin Bieber, who recently made headlines for his low-key Coachella appearance. Calling the fusion amusing, she laughs, further sharing what went through her mind while listening to the fresh version of her song *Pon Kasavu* that was mixed with Bieber's *Stay* and released on YouTube under Six Eight channel. "I never expected that. Now, I hear Gen Zs singing *Pon Kasavu*. The song took a rebirth with the mix. There are a lot of fans of Bieber, and I'm one of them," the singer says.

The 62-year-old singer was in the city for a concert at Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield, joined by an array of young talent, adding a fresh wave of energy to the evening. When she speaks about them, her tone stays warm. "I'm part of many reality shows and I'm seeing a lot of talent. So, whenever possible, I take them with me to my shows because I'm getting old. I draw energy from them," Chithra shares.

Memories of her beginnings flash through her eyes as she recalls the lessons from her legends and co-singers. "My father is my first guru. Then I started learning from my sister, who didn't teach me; actually, I used to listen and try to learn from her whenever she sang. The first person to encourage me was Dr KJ Yesudas sir, followed by SPB (SP Balasubrahmanyam) garu, Hariharan sir, and Janaki Amma (S Janaki), whom I love like a mother and then Susheelamma (P Susheela)... they all have inspired me. I'm like a daughter to them and that's my biggest blessing," she beams.

When asked if she keeps in touch with Yesudas, with whom she has crooned many soulful duets with, Chithra replies with a 'yes' and looks back at some of the cherished memories with him as she continues, "I did my first recording with Yesudas ji. After that, I started accompanying him to concerts – it was a huge learning experience." She pauses, then adds, "He always advised me how to maintain my voice, add expressions to songs, face the mic...It's because of all my seniors' blessings, advice that I'm here."

Even with an illustrious musical career of 40 years and after more than 18,000 songs, she refuses to place herself above others. She talks about an earlier generation of singers who performed beautifully with just a single mic, when discipline mattered more than anything else. "I know I'm nowhere near any of my seniors. I'm still trying to achieve at least a little bit of what they did. When you realise what you are, you'll stay grounded. Today, technology is helping all of us, while our seniors worked with just a mic and sang perfectly," she says of the senior musicians she admires.

To become the voice behind so many faces, across time, is no simple treat, but Chithra has made it feel almost second nature. "I preferred my voice to suit all heroines, but that idea has changed with age. I don't think I can do justice to all the juniors," the veteran singer says, adding that lately the focus has shifted to 'mother songs', be it POVs or about motherhood.

She further reflects on the changing nature of music, noting how composers once wrote with specific singers in mind, crafting songs around their vocal range. Today, she says, "Composers craft songs as per their range and later zero in on a singer who matches it. They keep trying with several singers and one is chosen after multiple trials." As for the future of music, she speaks of AI with cautious curiosity. "There are so many good things you can do with it. "But people are misusing it too. With AI, we are all scared of what's next," she says, before signing off.

I never expected that [the virality of Pon Kasavu's remix].I hear Gen Zs singing Pon Kasavu. The song took a rebirth with the mix. There are a lot of fans of Justin Bieber, and I'm one of them

KS Chithra, playback singer

Hung from belt loops or paired with fits, keychains are the new cool thing among fashion lovers, becoming an essential that's both functional and personal

Hang In There!

EXPRESS FEATURES

AS fashion continues to revisit the past, key chains are finding a new place in everyday style – small, easy to experiment with and instantly noticeable. Once meant for pockets, these accessories in the form of plush toys, metal chains and even toy cars are now clipped to pants, hung from belt loops as expressions of personal style. Fashion influencer Jay Bharali highlights how such accessories complement an outfit, giving a sleek finish. "Apart from necklaces and rings, keychains add attention to the separation between the upper and the lower body. It creates contrast and adds an interesting element. I add it at the end if it complements the outfit." He adds that he has noticed growing interest from followers enquiring about where they can find similar pieces

In the past, accessories like wallet chains had a clear use. Bikers in the '50s and '60s used them to keep their wallets safe while riding. Today, that same chain is something you style. Lifestyle content creator Karum C B prefers a minimal approach. "For one of my outfits, I used a carabiner with an eight-ball key detail. The outfit was more formal, but since I was on vacation, adding that gave it a more casual feel. It also adds a Y2K effect. I like things that are not very common but at the same time, works for me," he highlights.

Fashion director Varuna Vasanth sees this as part of a larger shift in how young people dress. He believes this is not just a comeback but a reinterpretation of earlier styles in kinds of fabric, print, texture, colour and accessory. "Y2K fashion is not just coming back. Gen Z is taking elements and making them their own. I would call it more like contemporary or hip-hop fashion," he adds. He points out how the trend is expanding across styles. "Fashion is branching out. You see denim with Indian jewellery or bandanas. Even dolls are being added to express personality," he says.

These small details act as a form of communication. Stylist and creative director Anil Hosamani says they help people express themselves without saying much. In this way, a keychain becomes more than just an accessory. Hosamani adds, "Everything on digital is for sale, whether it is a product, style or personality. Keychains are also part of this. A small personal detail can easily become something popular and widely available."

Bharali has seen this himself. In one of his posts, he styled a Y2K-inspired outfit with wallet chains. It was not the clothes but the accessory that people noticed. Today, influencers help connect people to products and ideas, but Hosamani believes individuality still depends on how a person wears it. "Styling should feel natural. Just because something works for someone else does not mean it will work for you," he adds.

FOCUS FEATURE

RAMDAS FAMILY MARKS A NIGHT OF LEGACY AND NEW BEGINNINGS

An evening of warmth, pride, and togetherness unfolded at Brix and Barrels as the Ramdas family came together to celebrate two significant milestones - Neil Ramdas' 14th birthday and 26 years of dedicated service by Ramdas at Whitefield Honda.

Set against the venue's rustic charm and inviting ambiance, the gathering brought together close family and friends for a celebration marked by laughter, shared memories, and heartfelt conversations. The evening reflected not just festivity, but a deep sense of gratitude and connection.

Ramdas' 26-year journey was recognised as a testament to consistency, resilience, and integrity—values that have not only defined his professional path but also shaped the family's foundation. For those present, the milestone symbolised dedication that extends beyond the workplace into everyday life.

Equally special was the celebration of young Neil turning 14 - a moment that captured the joy of growth and the promise of the future. His evolving journey, marked by curiosity and warmth, added a vibrant dimension to the evening.

For the family, the occasion stood as a reminder of shared strength, enduring bonds, and the milestones that define both personal and collective journeys.

With Deep Gratitude
Mrs Sreekala Ramdas, Ms Neha Ramdas

Matching the Vibe

RIDING the high of victory against the Mumbai Indians and in between airport lulls, the Royal Challengers Bengaluru took a second to share their top IPL '26 moments in a playful Instagram reel. Captain Rajat Patidar pointed out 'away' fans, saying "The crowds in Guwahati and Wankhede were the best moments," while emerging star Devdutt Padikkal humble-bragged, grinning, "The win against SRH, win against CSK and win against MI." Jitesh Sharma heaped expectations on 'cap' with, "I want to see him scoring the quickest 100 in the IPL."

Head physio James Pipe joined in on the fun too, asking Bhuvneshvar Kumar "Aapko paani chahiye?" with the bowler replying, "Haan chahiye, abhi chahiye." Not to be outdone, Pipe hit back a prime dad joke," You want Abhi? Abhinandan (Singh) is not here," Jacob Bethell shaking his head with laughter.

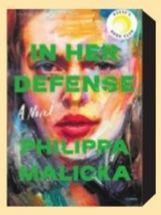
Set to play 3 games at Chinnaswamy Stadium, the home crowd is hoping to see this comraderie going. After all, ee sala nu cup nammade...alva?

CITY READ

New bridal collections launched for Akshaya Tritiya

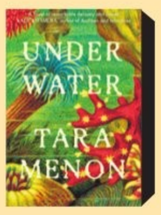
Raj Diamonds launched its Akshaya Tritiya campaign in the city on April 13, spotlighting two bridal collections — Ruby Splendour and Ancient Splendour. In time for the festival of prosperity and new beginnings, the campaign frames jewellery in the context of a bride's transition into a new phase of life. While Ruby Splendour features ruby and diamond combinations, reflecting intensity and boldness, Ancient Splendour draws from heirloom-inspired designs rooted in Indian craftsmanship. Developed through the brand's in-house manufacturing, the collections align with a shift where cultural associations hold equal weight as material value. The collections are available across outlets.

BOOK NOOK



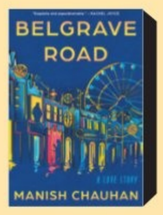
In Her Defense
by Philippa Malicka

A TV star, a therapist and a daughter's fractured memories collide in a courtroom trial gripping the nation. But Augusta Bird, the quiet nobody in the background, knows where the truth is buried.



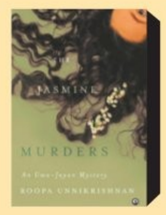
Under Water
by Tara Menon

A childhood spent diving the reefs of Thailand with her best friend Arielle leaves Marissa with a bond she never expected to lose. Years later, back in New York and still haunted by grief, two fateful days force her to finally reckon with the past and learn how to surface.



Belgrave Road
by Manish Chauhan

Mira arrives in England bound to a husband she cannot love, until a quiet man at work begins to truly see her. What grows between them is tender and fragile, caught between the duties that bind them and the lives they desperately are trying to build.



The Jasmine Murders
by Roopa Unnikrishnan

Uma arrives in Manamadurai expecting a sleepy backwater and finds a town already bleeding beneath the surface. When a grisly murder lands at her doorstep, she must untangle a web of secrets.

WINGMATES!

Nature comes into focus as a flock of spot-billed pelican, black-winged stilt and other exquisite birds gather at Hebbal Lake | **SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA**

QUICKFIX

MALAI CHICKEN

INGREDIENTS

- **Chicken:** 500 g
- **Mushrooms (diced):** 1 cup
- **Fresh cream:** 5 tbsp
- **Onion powder:** 1 tbsp
- **Onion (sliced):** 1 cup
- **Yoghurt:** 3/4 cup
- **Garlic powder:** 1 tbsp
- **Salt:** to taste

METHOD

- Caramelise onions, add mushrooms, and sauté until cooked.
- Stir in garlic and onion powders. Whisk in yoghurt and add chicken. Cover and cook until tender.
- Add salt and top with fresh cream.

Contributed by **Preksha Attick,** Bengaluru

NOWSTREAMING

REGIONAL

SARASWATHI (Telugu)

A devoted mother's world crumbles when her 12-year-old daughter vanishes. Seeking police assistance, she encounters surprising turns that complicate the case.

Cast: Priyamani, Radikaa Sarathkumar, Varalaxmi Sarathkumar

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

FOREIGN

EUPHORIA (English, series)

The new season jumps timeline with Nate and Cassie, who are married, in crosshairs with a drug lord kingpin.

Cast: Zendaya, Sydney Sweeney, Jacob Elordi, Alexa Demie

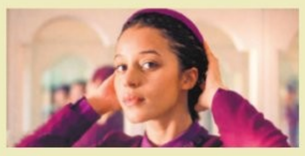
- **Watch on:** JioHotstar

THE TESTAMENTS (English, series)

This sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale* follows Agnes and Daisy, two teens in Gilead who must navigate an elite preparatory school where obedience is brutally enforced. Their bond becomes the catalyst that will transform their lives.

Cast: Rowan Blanchard, Lucy Halliday, Chase Infiniti

- **Watch on:** JioHotstar



SUBSCRIPTION

Netflix:	₹ 199/month
Prime Video:	₹ 299/month
Jio Cinema:	₹ 999/year
Disney+ Hotstar:	₹ 899/year
Zee5:	₹ 699/year
Viki Rakuten:	₹ 299/month
Aha:	₹ 699/year
SonyLIV:	₹ 299/month

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

@XpressBengaluru/@tniefeatures
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

FITBIT

HOW MANY SETS AND REPS DO YOU REALLY NEED FOR MUSCLE GAIN?

Building muscle is less about chasing random numbers and more about applying structured volume, intensity and recovery. Here are some guided steps for building sets and reps.

1. USE A FLEXIBLE REP RANGE (NOT JUST ONE RULE):

The traditional hypertrophy range is 6-12 reps, but research shows muscle growth can occur anywhere between 5-30 reps.

2. FOCUS ON WEEKLY VOLUME, NOT JUST SETS PER EXERCISE:

Muscle gain depends on total workload across the week.

- Aim for 10-20 sets per muscle group weekly
- Beginners can start lower (6-10 sets) and scale up gradually

3. TRAIN CLOSE TO FAILURE (THE REAL GROWTH TRIGGER):

The most effective reps are the last few before failure. Training too easily limits progress.

4. DON'T CHASE EXCESS VOLUME:

More isn't always better. Beyond approximately 20 sets/week, the benefits of plateau and recovery suffer. Increase your sets only if you're recovering well.

5. PRIORITISE PROGRESSIVE OVERLOAD:

Without progression, your body won't adapt. The progression can be through adding weight, increasing reps, or improving control and range.

6. MATCH REPS TO EXERCISE TYPE:

- **Compound lifts:** 5-12 reps (strength+size)
- **Isolation exercises:** 10-20 reps (better control, less joint stress)

7. RECOVERY IS PART OF THE PROGRAMME

Ensuring 7-9 hours of sleep and adequate protein intake is important to let your muscles repair and grow.

When training is structured and recovery is prioritised, results follow steadily. Small, deliberate improvements over time lead to meaningful progress. Focus on quality, stay consistent and the results will take care of themselves.

By Spoorthi S, fitness expert, cult – a fitness and wellness platform

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Boishakh Brunch

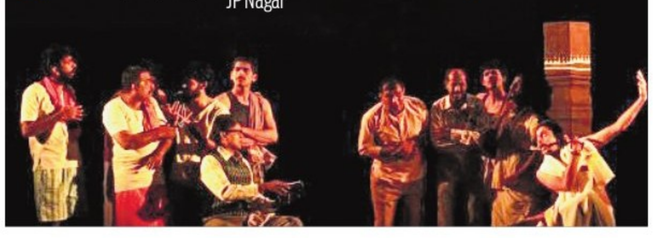
Celebrate the Bengali New Year with a specially curated brunch with the richness of Bengali cuisine and tradition. The experience captures the essence of Nobo Borsho through a curated festive spread inspired by traditional home kitchens, representing authentic Bengali flavours.

WHEN: April 15, 12.30pm onwards | **WHERE:** Sheraton Grand Bangalore Hotel, Brigade Gateway, Dr Rajkumar Road | **CALL:** 87924 93438

Theatrical Tales

Witness the magic of theatre at *Kanthu*, a theatrical presentation of a story by Kannada storyteller Vivek Shanbhag. The play dives into a tale of emotion, intrigue and human resilience of inhabitants of Maavinooru, brought to life by talented performers.

WHEN: April 15, 7.30pm | **WHERE:** Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar | **CALL:** 80265 92777



Rock On!

Attend a specially-curated listening session featuring alternative and hard rock records. Experience the influential musicality of rock music in the right ambience and with the right people.

WHEN: April 15, 7pm
WHERE: The Middle Room, Shantinagar
CALL: 63649 42336

Unleash Art

Immerse yourself in an interactive traditional Gond art workshop to explore, create and discover your artistic side. The workshop teaches you about the intricacies of the tribal art form while helping you create one of your own artworks through the hands-on session.

WHEN: April 15, 5pm
WHERE: Hobby Ghar, Basavanagudi
CALL: 95355 55644

4...3...2...1

Join a midweek clubbing experience with **DJ Ganesh** for an enjoyable time dancing away. Expect high-energy sounds, insane vibes, and a dancefloor that doesn't slow down.

WHEN: April 15, 9pm
WHERE: Bastian Garden City, St Mark's Road
CALL: 98800 81644

Musical Break

Feel the soulful vibes at this live music event where The Divine Soul band blends jazz, blues and fusion rhythms for an electrifying night. Groove to live performances, unwind with drinks and connect with music lovers all at once.

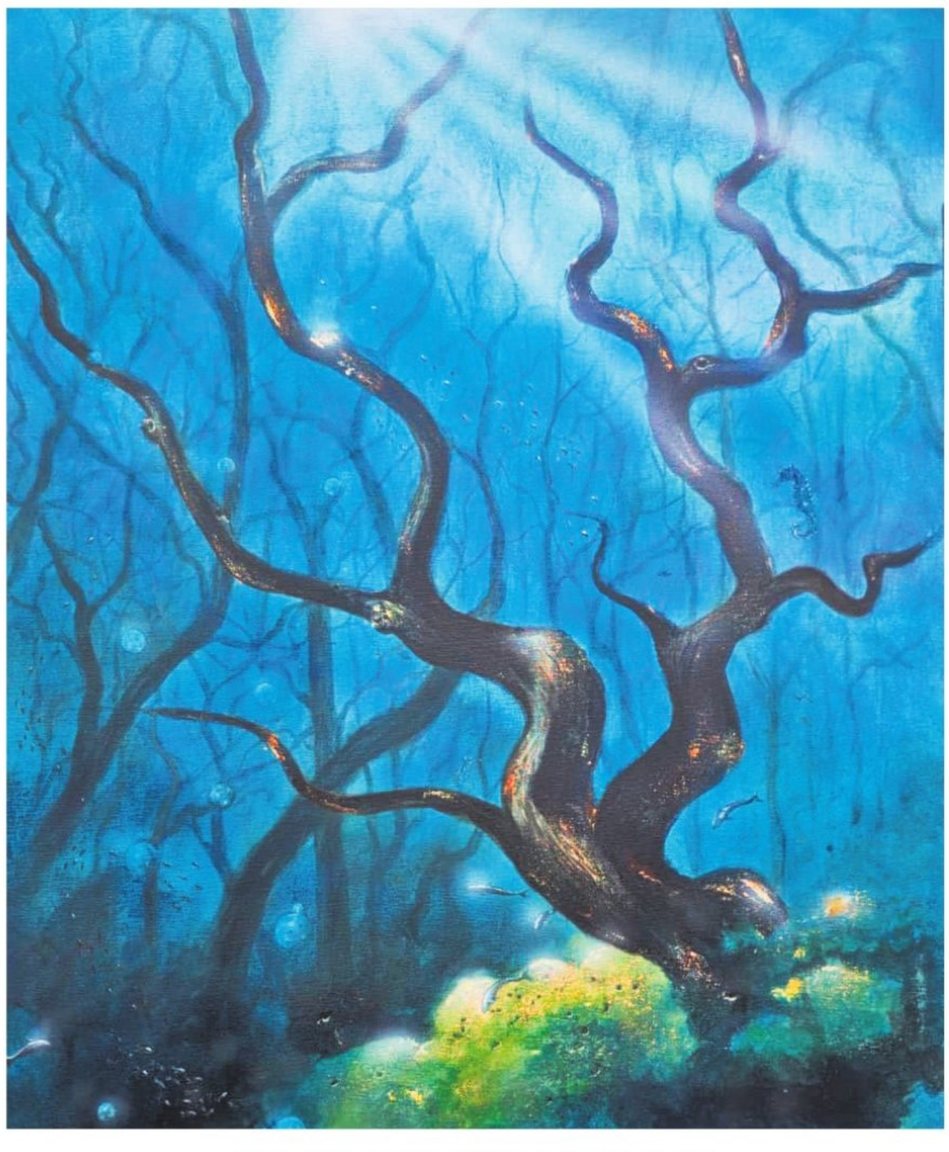
WHEN: April 15, 8pm
WHERE: Chin Lungs, Indiranagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Sound of Healing

Indulge in soothing vibrations from crystal bowls to relaxation chimes, guided by experts to release stress, balance chakras and restore peace. Join this session for deep relaxation and renewal for the week.

WHEN: April 15, 8am onwards
WHERE: Harmony Haaven, HSR Layout **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

ARTCORNER



BETWEEN TIME AND TIDE

Artist Rose Molly paints life under the ocean floor – lingering and gently thriving beneath the waves.

With April marking National Poetry Writing Month, whip out your pens and try these prompts to get your writing going

TAKE A PROMPT

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

SOME poems come from words carefully collected over days and weeks, their placement in a sentence tried and tested, maybe left to mature in a jar for months; other poems arrive like lightning, and you, holding the jar, might catch it. National Poetry Writing Month, started by American poet Maureen Thorson in 2003, prescribes to neither of these ideas – instead challenging poets to write a poem each day, following a different prompt.

Whether you forget these drafts exist or choose to cut, sort, spice up and let them deepen their flavours is up to you, but here are some prompts curated by *CE* and volunteered by Bengaluru's poets to help you get started.

GETTING STARTED

Try these first lines by iconic poets as prompts for your own poems (reading them, too, would help)

- 'Where are you now? Who lies beneath your spell tonight?' (*Tonight*, Agha Shahid Ali)
- 'Lord, when you send the rain, think about it, please, a little?' (Untitled, James Baldwin)
- 'I shut my eyes and all the world drops dead' (*Mad Girl's Love Song*, Sylvia Plath)
- 'The almanac of time hangs in the brain' (*The Almanac of Time*, Dylan Thomas)
- 'There is a house now far away where once' (*My Grandmother's House*, Kamala Das

Pranav VS, writer, assistant professor

A prompt I like to give is 'bakery smells in my street'. It is local and a sensory thing we don't come across as much as we did anymore. I remember the bakery in my area sending out an invitation in the form of egg puffs' smell every time I crossed it to do some other chore. It inevitably dragged me to the bakery and made me give in. It is just far away enough in memory for us to desire that time, so you can work with it without too much wrestling.

Food for thought: The official NaPoWriMo prompts are well thought out but my struggle with them is how they are programmed for a universal experience. I wonder what would happen if our prompts were shaped to be more local. Because the textures of experience changes with so little and yet I'm sure we could preserve the universal in those personal, local feelings as well. What would happen reversing the way we write it? I'm curious to know.

Shaista Yacoob, poet

Write a poem that begins with a mundane, ordinary object like a cup, a window or a piece of clothing and allow it to shift naturally into something more intangible like a memory, a fear or a desire. Begin with a single emotion, turn it over, examine its nuances and explore both its heights and depths, then let it flow into abstract or unexplored emotions.

Food for thought: Writing a poem a day is demanding yet rewarding, but my process is more intuitive and authentic expression flows without structure. These prompts, however, can be a valuable tool when you're stuck and want to spark direction. Remember that most emotions and topics have been written about, but what matters is your unique perception and interpretation. Do not think about pleasing others' ears, it should be pleasing to you first.

Running Head Books
Sucheta Dasgupta's
Ladies' Night
~ STORIES ~
Which is your story? What's your poison?
4th April 2026 - 6 pm - Tagore Film Centre - Chennai -

Sucheta Dasgupta's book, *Ladies' Night* is a collection of short stories on women, liberation and new ways of thinking

KNITTING REAL AND SURREAL

SONU M KOTHARI

SEATED before the glow of her computer screen, author and journalist Sucheta Dasgupta begins not with words, plots or sequence, but with an imaginary setting in her head. In that setting, a character steps in, makes a decision, and that becomes the trope around which the story revolves.

This has been her writing ritual for more than two decades. Since 2004, Sucheta has been writing stories and saving them in her story bank. Between 2004 and 2007, she produced 14 stories. On Saturday, the author released 18 such short stories in a collection titled *Ladies' Night: Stories* at the Tagore Film Centre.

Explaining the title, the author says, "There are ladies' nights in bars, where ladies get free drinks – that is what is happening in the stories. The title is incidental to the framing device that holds the stories together."

That framework accommodates a wide range of classifications, including a fairy tale, a couple of fables, some realistic fiction, love stories, a feminist parable, magic realism, speculative fiction, horror and surreal stories. The collection ends with what she calls a 'true story'. "I prefer calling it a true story, rather than autofiction, but the genre is autofiction," she notes.

The collection that traverses genres and moods, is reflective of her worldview and principles. Speaking about feminism through her personal lens, Sucheta states, "The second wave of feminism is the kernel of feminism. I'm also talking about [in the book] how women have to take their freedom. They don't have to wait for men to give them the freedom. I'm focusing on women improving themselves."

At its core, the book, according to this author, guides the readers on "how to think, which is very important because that is how you can lead your life in a way that makes sense and which creates beauty in the world," she adds.

For Running Head Books, it was this distinct voice that drew them to Sucheta. Because of "her unique voice, first and foremost, and the extraordinary stories and the quirky structure; all of it. As the blurb says, she makes the bizarre accessible and the forbidden human," say Chitra Viraraghavan and Krishna Shastri Devulapalli, founders of this homegrown publishing house.

Chitra and Krishna started this firm with a clear intent to find, nurture and publish original voices. This is their attempt to take better control of and be more attentive with their own intellectual property. Their vision aligns closely with a larger global shift.

"World over today, the most exciting literature is coming out of small, indie publishers," they say, adding that the Booker Prize, as well as the Nobel Prize, in recent times has gone to writers nurtured and published by such book companies.

"We are hopeful that this will become a trend here, too. Thus, every indie publisher here is no rival but an ally."

Currently, the duo is focusing mostly on publishing fiction and narrative nonfiction of all types, both in English and in translation. And in that process, they are completely hands-on. "We intend to take time over every book we publish, and that has been true of *Ladies' Night* as well. Our tagline itself is: one book at a time. Because writers and books deserve that kind of undivided attention. It's only then that we are being fair to the person for whom it is all intended: the reader," say the founders.

KNOW YOUR CITY

Arun Prasad, city-based history researcher, unravels interesting facts about Bengaluru in this weekly quiz series. So it's time for you to find out how familiar you are with the city, beyond its heritage buildings, IT parks and the pub culture.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Know Your City Quiz'**

Correct answers and names of first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE*.

1. Dewan K Seshadri Iyer, the second-longest serving Dewan of Mysore (1883 to 1901) after Dewan Purnaiah, garnered a reputation as one of the best Indian administrators during the colonial period. With his contributions to the progress of the city, Iyer is regarded as the 'Maker of Modern Bangalore'. He was the man behind the electrification of the city in 1905 from the Shivanasamudra hydro-electric project and providing drinking water to the city through a pipeline from Hesaraghatta lake in 1894. Name one of the earliest extensions of the city named after him.

2. VP Madhava Rao, who had a humble beginning in his career as the headmaster of a royal school in Mysore, served as the public prosecutor of Mysore and then in the judicial and revenue departments. Madhava Rao later became the Inspector General of Police and was appointed Plague Commissioner of Mysore when the state was struck by the dreadful plague in 1898, when the city of Bangalore was most affected. Well known for his competence, Madhava Rao went on to become the Dewan of Mysore in 1906. Name the area in the city where he lived and spent his final days, which was later named after him.

3. T Ananda Rao succeeded VP Madhavarao as the Dewan of Mysore from 1909 to 1912, in whose tenure the state witnessed some major economic progress. It was Ananda Rao who invited Sir M Visvesvaraya to be the chief engineer and secretary of Mysore, and the construction of the KR Sagar Dam was initiated. A prominent circle in Bengaluru is named after the Dewan as Anandarao Circle. Which part of the city is the circle located in: Shivajinagar or Gandhinagar?

NUGGETS

DEBUT NOVEL GETS SHORTLISTED FOR THE INT'L BOOKER PRIZE 2026

The Nights Are Quiet in Tehran (Scribe; ₹2,618) by **Shida Bazyar** has been shortlisted for the International Booker Prize 2026, with the announcement made recently. The debut novel traces an Iranian family's journey from the 1979 Revolution to the 2009 protests. It explores exile, identity and generational memory between Tehran and Germany. It focuses on the after effects of political upheaval, rather than the events themselves. Told through multiple voices, the narrative examines how ideology, fear and silence shape family life and how younger generations inherit unresolved histories. As global conversations around protest, displacement and state power intensify, the book's inclusion reflects the prize's focus on stories that connect geopolitical change with lived experience. The winner of the International Booker Prize 2026 will be announced on May 19.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

SMART ADS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ADARSH BHANDARI** Residing at Flat No. E204, Shapoorji Pallonji Park West, Binnyfields, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560023, do hereby affirm that I have Changed my name from **ADARSH BHANDARI MANGALCHAND** to **ADARSH BHANDARI** Affidavit Dated 13.4.2026 Sworn Before Notary H.R. Karunakara, Bengaluru-10, Reg No. 12327

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MAHESH SHIVAPPA SONNAD, S/o. Shivappa Sonnad, R/at No. 2514/X, 7th A Main, Opp. Swimming Pool, Hampinagar, Vijayanagar, Bangaluru 560040, Karnataka, India, I have changed my name from '**MAHESH SONNAD**' to '**MAHESH SHIVAPPA SONNAD**' vide affidavit dated 10/04/2026 sworn to before Deepa.M Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VINITH BUSIPALLI**, aged about 20 years, S/o Sri Sudhakar B C, Resident at No. 26, 8th Cross Road, Balaji Golden City, Singapura, Vidyaranapura Post, Bangalore-560097 Karnataka do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **VINITH BUSUPALLI** to **VINITH BUSIPALLI** henceforth I shall be known and called as **VINITH BUSIPALLI** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 09/04/2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **V. ANJANAPPA** at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MEENAKSHI KUKREJA**, Aged about 40 Years, W/o. Tarun Kumar, resident of 1F 501, Akme Harmony, Near Shell Petro Pump, Bellandur, Bengaluru-560103, Karnataka, have changed my name to **MEENAKSHI SINGH** for all purposes affidavit dated 14/04/2026 sworn before advocate and notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I,**R.Vidhya Prasad** S/o A Raghunath, residing at No.110,4th main,11th B cross,Vinayaka Layout, next to H V Reddy Residency, Bhattarahalli, Bangalore - 560049 have changed my name to **R Vidya Prasad** vide affidavit dated:13/4/2026 sworn before notary Onkarappa.N.R, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SATHYAPRIYA G, D/o Gopalakrishnalah,** R/a No.301, Flat No.5, 2nd Floor, Sapthagruha Apartment, 16th Cross, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore North, Bengaluru-560003 have changed our Minor Son Name from **SAATHVIK J** to **SAATHVIK S** (DOB: 31.05.2013) vide affidavit dated: 07.04.2026 before Notary G. Dayananda, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ZEENA CATHERINE ANTHONY RAJU** (Old name) D/O **ANTHONY RAJU** residing at No. 88, Flat No 101 S R Park View Appointments 1st A Cross Vijaya Bank Layout Bengaluru -560076 have changed my name to **ZEENA CATHERINE** (New name) vide affidavit dated: 14/4/2026 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore.

DECLARATION
I, **MURAHARI DINESH RAJAN,** S/o Late Govind Rajan @ Govindaraji @M.Govinda Rajan, R/at No.22/10, Nethaji Subhashchandrabose Road, Near Kadirenahalli Petrol Bunk, Bendrenagar, Bengaluru-560070, have declare that both names **MURAHARI DINESH RAJAN & DENNIS RAJAN** belongs to one & the same person i.e my name vide affidavit dated 20/03/2026 sworn before Notary R. Basavaraja, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, KHADKE MANITHA W/o Chandrashekar S R Aged about 48 Years, Residing at Flat No. SA, Vastav Emerald, Site No. 22, 1st Block, 1st Stage, HBR Layout, Bangalore North, Kalyananagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560043, I declare that my name is mentioned as **K MANITHA** in my BSNL Service record, My father's name is mentioned as **K HEERA MANJI,** my correct name is **KHADKE MANITHA** and My father's correct name is **KHADKE HEERAMANJI,** vide affidavit dated 9/4/2026 sworn to before G R Ravichandra Reddy Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SATHYAPRIYA G, D/o Gopalakrishnalah, R/a No.301, Flat No.5, 2nd Floor, Sapthagruha Apartment, 16th Cross, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore North, Bengaluru-560003 have changed our Minor Daughter's name from **CHINMAYI J** to **CHINMAYI S** (DOB: 24.09.2010) vide affidavit dated: 07.04.2026 before Notary G. Dayananda, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **AMRESH H.M. (AMRESH HENNUR MUNIYAPPA)** aged 44 years, S/o. MUNIYAPPA. Residing at, No-11/1, Chikkagullappa Building, Vinayaka Temple Road, Hennur Bande, Kalyananagar Post, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560043, have changed my Name From **AMARESHA M. to AMRESH H.M, (AMRESH HENNUR MUNIYAPPA),** vide affidavit dated:13-04-2026 sworn before Notary, Vijayalakshmi.K, Bengaluru.

DECLARATION
I, G. SATHISH RAJAN, S/o Late Govind Rajan @ Govindaraji @ M.Govinda Rajan, R/at No.22/10, Nethaji Subhashchandra Bose Road, Near Kadirenahalli Petro Bunk, Bengaluru-560070 have declare that the names of **G. SATHISS RAJAN and SATISH RAJAN** belongs to one & the same person i.e my name vide Affidavit dated 20-03-2026 sworn before Notary R.Basavaraja, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VIJAYAKANTH K** (Old name), S/o Kannan, R/at No.83, Old No.72/2, 1st Floor, Near Venugopala Swamy Temple, Konena Agrahara, H.A.L Post, Bangalore - 560017, have changed my name as **VIJAY K** (New name) for all purposes, vide Affidavit dated 13.04.2026 sworn before Notary J. Anand Kumar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SHAROON C, D/o Christa, age 39 years, R/at No.83, Ground Floor, Mathru Pithru Nilaya, 3rd Cross, Manjunatha Layout, Arch Road, Anandapura, K R Puram Post, Bangalore-560036 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **SHAROON ANTHONY BALARAJ** and **SHAROON C** are one and the same and refers to me only, vide affidavit dated 11-04-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **C SASIKALA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **DEBOSMITA PAUL, R/o Flat No. 107, 3rd Floor, 42nd Main, 2nd Cross, BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560068, have changed my name to DEBOSMITA DASGUPTA** for all purposes affidavit dated 14/04/2026 sworn before advocate and notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR, Bangalore

DECLARATION
I, G. HARISSH RAJAN & ARUL RAJAN, S/o Late Govind Rajan @Govindaraji @ M. Govinda Rajan, R/at No.22/10, Nethaji Subhashchandra Bose Road, Near Kadirenahalli Petro Bunk, Bendrenagar, Bengaluru-560070 have declare that both names **G.HARISSH RAJAN & ARUL RAJAN** belongs to one & the same person i.e., my name vide Affidavit dated 20/03/2026 sworn before Notary R. Basavaraja, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, JAYALALITA HULKOPPA W/O ARAVINDA PELAMARVA KADAMBALITHAYA aged about 41 years, both are residing at No #66, 1st Cross, Raghavendra Swamy Orchard, Basapura Main Road, Off Hosa Road POST:Electronic City, Bangalore South Bangalore, Karnataka - 560100, have changed my name from **JAYALALITA PRABHAKAR HULKOPPA** to **JAYALALITA HULKOPPA,** vide affidavit dated 13/4/2026 sworn to before Neha Baddi Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANKUR SAHAY,** aged about 35 years, S/o Ajay Kumar Sahay, residing at Flat No. A003, 1st Floor, Trifecta Verdure, Chikkanayakanahalli, Carmelaram Post, Bangalore-560035, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ANKUR** to **ANKUR SAHAY** henceforth I shall be known and called as **ANKUR SAHAY** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 11/04/2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **YANKOBA** at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **TOLSTOY R, R/o 160, 1st Main, 5th Cross, South Avenue Layout, Gottigere, Bangalore - 560083, have changed my name to TOLSTOY** for all purposes affidavit dated 14/04/2026 sworn before advocate and notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR, Bangalore

DECLARATION
I, ANURUBA.K. G. D/o Late Govind Rajan @Govindaraji @M. Govinda Rajan, R/at No.22/10, Nethaji Subhashchandra Bose Road, Near Kadirenahalli Petrol Bunk, Bendrenagar, Bengaluru-560070 have declare that both the names **ANURUBA K. G. & DHANALAKSHMI** belongs to one and the same person i.e my name, vide Affidavit dated 20/03/2026 sworn before Notary R. Basavaraja, Bengaluru.

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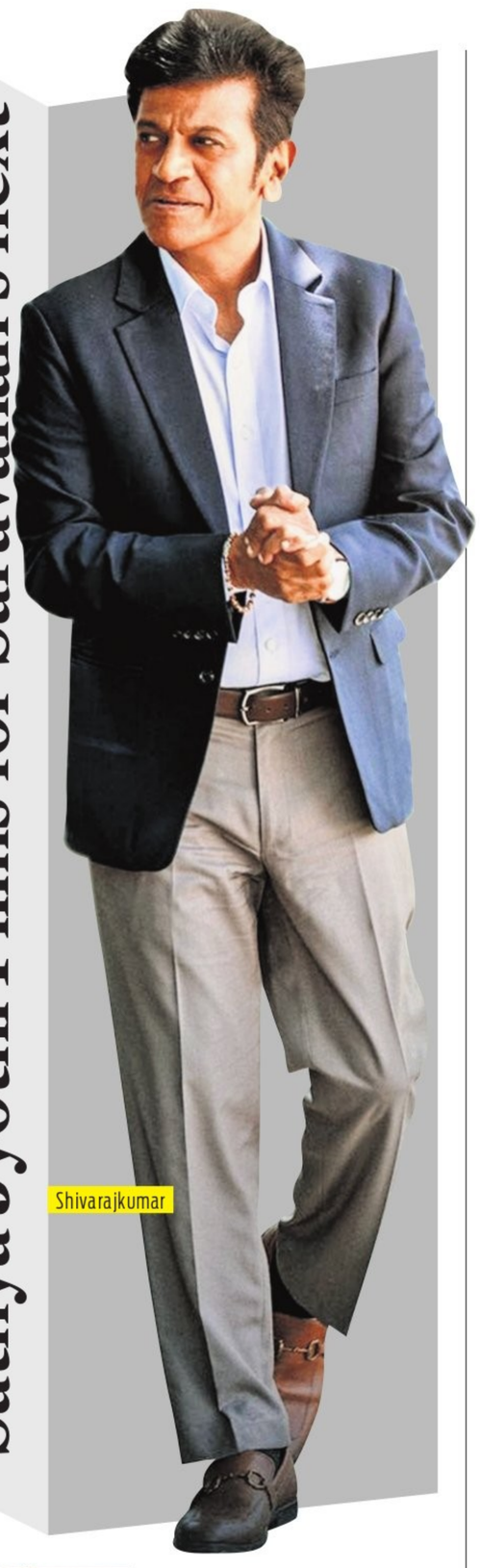
Shivarajkumar joins hands with Saravanan's next

Sathya Jyothi Films for S



CE FEATURES

SATHYA Jyothi Films, a noted production house in the South, has been taking steady steps to establish a foothold in Karnataka. The banner, which once backed Vishnuvardhan's *Sathya Jyothi* (1986) and later collaborated with Kichcha Sudeep on *Mark* (2025), has now officially announced a new project with Shivarajkumar.

The announcement came with an interesting poster, which shows a large vintage-style metal key placed upright, with a few bullets scattered around it. The film will be presented by TG Thyagarajan and produced by Sendhil Thyagarajan and Arjun Thyagarajan. Direction will be handled by M Saravanan, known for his Tamil film *Engeyum Eppodhum* (2011), starring Jai. He marked his direction in Kannada with the remake of *Ivan Veramathiri* (2013) as *Chakravyuha* (2016), featuring Puneeth Rajkumar and Rachita Ram, with music by S Thaman.

According to the production house, they have been keen on collaborating with Shivarajkumar for a while, waiting for the right subject. Saravanan's script seems to have sealed the deal. According to reports, Shivarajkumar is said to have come on board within just 15 minutes of narration. The makers describe the film as a new-age, in-trend subject aimed at the contemporary audience. It will be a content-driven family entertainer that blends action and emotion. The project is being planned as a Kannada-Tamil bilingual and will be dubbed into multiple languages for a wider release.

With the script locked, the team has moved into pre-production, working simultaneously on finalising the cast and crew. An official muhurta and detailed announcement are expected soon.

Meanwhile, Shivarajkumar has wrapped up his stint as judge on the reality show *Dance Karnataka Dance* and has resumed shooting for *Bail*, directed by Pavan Wadeyar, which has around 15 days of shooting left. The actor will also be seen in a key role in Hemanth M Rao's upcoming project *666 Operation Dream Theatre*, starring Dhananjay in the lead. Shivanna, who is also be seen alongside Rajinikanth in *Jailer 2*, will begin work with *Gummadi Narasaiah*, directed by Parameshwar Hivrale, and has *A for Anand* with director Srini lined up, making it a packed and interesting slate for the actor.

KENDADA SERAGU DEMANDED THAT I GO BACK TEN YEARS IN FILMMAKING: ROCKY SOMLI

A SHARADHAA

FOR a first-time filmmaker, Rocky Somli begins his journey with a name that carries personal weight. His surname, Somli, is drawn from his grandmother's name, a tribute he holds close. "It comes from love," he says, as the conversation turns to *Kendada Seragu*, a title that itself echoes a sense of the past. Rocky admits that the film, much like its name, deliberately looks back. "In terms of subject and making, I have gone back almost ten years. That was necessary because the story demanded that time and pattern. I wanted to keep it natural."

Kendada Seragu is adapted from Rocky's own novel of the same name, which also earned recognition. What began as a project aimed at the festival circuit slowly transformed into something larger. "Initially, I thought I would make a film mainly for awards. But as the process evolved, with the right cast coming in and the scale increasing, the budget doubled. We added songs, action, and other elements, and it took the shape of a commercial film. Still, I have stayed true to the roots of the novel," he explains. Rocky says the shift was also a conscious decision to reach a wider audience. "It is a women-centric story. If I had made it only as an award film, it might not have connected with audiences. So I balanced it with commercial elements while keeping the core intact."

The film explores the lives of sex workers and the generational assumptions tied to them. "There is always this notion that a sex worker's daughter will follow the same path. That thought stayed with me," he says. To move beyond stereotypes, Rocky immersed himself in research. "I spent over two months in red-light areas, including in Pune and surrounding places. I visited at least ten such locations and interacted with many women. Their lives are deep and layered. As a writer, that stayed with me." These experiences shaped the novel in 2022, which has now found its cinematic form. While the theme is familiar, Rocky believes that his perspective adds a different dimension. "The idea of a daughter choosing a different life was fixed in my mind. Alongside that, there is also a layer that touches upon themes like love and belief systems, handled metaphorically. At the same time, there is a strong mother sentiment running through the film."

Shobhita plays a sex worker, while Bhoomi Shetty appears as her daughter. The ensemble also includes Sindhu Loknath and Malashree, alongside Harish Arasu, Yash Shetty, Vardhan, and Bala Rajawadi. "The film begins and ends with Malashree's character," Rocky reveals. On the technical front, the film has music by Veresh Kambli and cinematography by Vipind P Raj.

Throughout the process, Rocky says he gained a clearer understanding of lives often misrepresented on screen. "In cinema, there is a certain perspective shown, but in reality, many women see it as employment. I even came across instances where both mother and daughter were in the same profession. It was an eye-opening experience." As he awaits the film's release on April 17, Rocky is already looking ahead. "I wanted to begin with something grounded and gain that first-hand experience. Now, I am planning a big-budget film with a big star. I am working towards a more mass subject," he signs off.

The debut director draws from his award-winning novel, real-life observations, and a deep emotional core to shape a women-centric story that blends realism with commercial appeal

CE FEATURES

THE trailer of *Jerax*, the upcoming Kannada series on ZEE5, builds on this idea and sets up a strange and uneasy world where copies refuse to stay copies. The six episode series begins streaming on April 24.

Produced by Dhananjaya under Daali Pictures, on his first stint in digital, and marking Blink director Srinidhi Bengaluru's OTT debut, *Jerax* centres on Prakasha, played by Nagabhushana. He runs a small xerox shop in Rayadurga, living a life most people barely notice. He seems to be waiting for life to change, though he does not quite know how.

A thayitha merging with the machine brings copies to life, and what starts off as curiosity soon turns uneasy. As familiar faces appear in unexpected places, the town begins to feel off, as people come face to face with another version of themselves.

Dhananjaya says what caught his attention was the emotional side, the idea of people avoiding sides of themselves. Srinidhi Bengaluru treats the duplicates not as villains, but as reflections that refuse to stay hidden.

For Nagabhushana, Prakasha is hard to define. He is vulnerable, unsure, and then slowly, something shifts. The trailer shows that change without explaining too much.

With a cast that includes Payal Chengappa and Manju Pavagada, *Jerax* feels less like fantasy and more like a commentary about the things people hide within themselves.

CE FEATURES

AFTER their breakout venture with the horror film *Weapons* last year, the producer duo of Zach Cregger (who also directed *Weapons*) and Roy Lee are teaming up to back another film. The film, titled Little Ones, was announced at the CinemaCon event. This film marks the duo's fourth collaboration after *Barbarian* (2022), *Weapons* (2025), and *Resident Evil,* which is slated for release this September.

As producers, Little Ones are their sophomore production. The upcoming film marks the feature debut of Cregger's friend Alex Kavutskiy.

Also penned by Kavutskiy, Little Ones follows a sudden change in a child's behaviour, endangering the picture-perfect family. Interestingly, the theme is similar to Cregger's 2025 hit. Worked as a writer in the recently released *Jury Duty Presents: Company Retreat,* Kavutskiy's previous directing credits include the Sundance short *Squirrel*.

'Love Mocktail 3's success already feels like an 100th day celebration'

CE FEATURES

LOVE Mocktail 3, directed by and starring Darling Krishna, has successfully completed 25 days in theatres. From its opening day, the film received a strong response and steadily built momentum, ultimately crossing this significant milestone.

Sharing his excitement on the occasion, Krishna says, "The film running for over 25 days to packed houses is equivalent to the 100-day runs of earlier times."

Released on March 19 after taking over the earlier release slot of Toxic, *Love Mocktail 3* hit the screens with distribution handled by KVN Productions.

Expressing gratitude to the audience, Krishna also celebrated the hat-trick success of the Love Mocktail franchise, which started with Love Mocktail in 2020, and followed up with Love Mocktail 2 in 2022.

Produced under the Krishmi banner by Darling Krishna and Milana Nagaraj, the film features an ensemble cast that includes Milana Nagaraj, Samvrutha, Amrutha Iyengar, Dileep Raj, Shwetha Prasad, Rachel David, Nayera, Jagadish, Abhilash, Giriraj, and Dalapathi.

The film has cinematography and editing by Sri Crazy Minds, with music composed by Nakul Abhyankar, and art direction by Amar and Jonah.

Looking ahead, Krishna has already begun working on his next directorial. While he hints that the plot is equally exciting, he is choosing to keep the story under wraps for now. "I am writing my directorial and also listening to other subjects from various directors. Meanwhile, I have Father, which is ready for release, and I plan to kickstart one film this year. It depends on which one materialises first," he signs off.

CINEMA WITHOUT BORDERS

In this weekly column, the writer introduces you to powerful cinema from across the world

Film: **One in a Million**

NAMRATA JOSHI

WINNER of the jury award for direction and the audience award, Itab Azzam & Jack MacInnes' *One in a Million* was one of the three films in the World Documentary Competition section of Sundance this year *(Birds of War* and *Everybody to Kenmure Street* being the other two) that were focused on migrants, showing different facets of the refugee experience.

A UK production, the German and Arabic film can well be called Azzam and MacInnes' *Boyhood* (2014). However, unlike Richard Linklater's much-celebrated coming-of-age epic, the Sundance winner is about a girl. It's not an improvisational piece of fiction but an authentic record of her life journey.

What it shares with the 2014 film is the idea of capturing the passage of time in the life of its protagonist, how things alter with the change in circumstances, where it takes the person and what it makes of them.

Linklater shot his film over a period of twelve years, as his protagonist turned 18 from the six-year-old he was at the start. One in a Million covers a similar span. Filmed for ten years, from 2015-2025, it doesn't just traverse time but also geographies. Isra and her family members are forced to travel to Germany from Syria, with the war looming large. The film also shows her return journey from Cologne to Aleppo. Caught between two homes, which of them is the real one for her? Obviously, then her experience of growing up (from the age of 11 to 21) becomes much more complex, intertwined with questions of nation, identity, family, culture, displacement, exile and belonging. There are the universal adolescent pangs of love and heartbreaks, of parental and peer pressure, all framed in and shaped by the overarching context of a clash of cultures.

Western liberalism locks horns with Syrian conservatism; the modern gets pitched against the traditional. Isra loses some even as she gains some—the warmth and comfort of family and community as opposed to the headiness of individualism. The confusion, lack of certitude and insecurity are inevitable then. As she engages with the new, the old will become distant, yet can't be entirely denied or absent. It is, after all, a repository of her childhood memories.

The film begins at the end, so to speak, with Isra returning to Aleppo in 2025 after the fall of the repressive regime of Bashar Hafez al-Assad. She feels like a stranger in the hellscape surrounded by the remains of what were once homes. War is not the hardest, she states. It's what comes after. We then cut to the moment when the filmmakers met Isra for the first time, selling cigarettes on the streets of Izmir in Turkey in 2015, after the family's flight from Syria. While she is optimistic about the future in Germany, her father, Tarek, isn't. It's the women, Isra and her mother Nisreen, who embrace the new reality more wholeheartedly than Tarek, resulting in a rift in the relationships.

The character-driven documentary becomes a fascinating exploration of the clear-eyed Nisreen, the maladjusted Tarek, but especially Isra, as her rebellious streak eventually paves the way to embrace her Islamic identity.

At the heart and soul of filmmaking is the incredible access that Azzam and MacInnes had been granted by the subject and her guardians. They are mindful of the trust and faith reposed in them. As a result, they bring a sense of both intimacy and a respectful distance to their camera as it zooms in on Isra and her family and friends. Their point of view is non-judgmental and empathetic. What could have keeled over and turned voyeuristic, remains a genuine, gentle and compassionate gaze. Editors Alec Rossiter and Iain Pettifer deserve as much credit for fashioning an engaging and emotional narrative from the enormous footage.

One in a Million is a no-holds-barred celebration of human resilience and adaptability, of a girl and an entire community, amid the insurmountable bleakness of the times.